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An Opening for Common Sense

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Frankly, I have no conviction, if that is what you mean. I blow with the wind...
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Consumer Choice
Christmas in Christendom
Frederick D. Wilhelmsen
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Search: 'Budget crisis 2008-09' ... see 'budget crisis 2001-04' ... see 'budget crisis 1991-94' ... see ... see ... see ...
by Ray Haynes

"The beginning of political wisdom is the recognition that liberalism is at the end of its intellectual tether."
— Irving Kristol

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CORRESPONDENCE

The 'rights' of terrorists

As if we needed it: the Supreme Court's ruling inventing *habeaus corpus* "rights" for terrorists underlines, highlights, and adorns in red ink Mr. Saracino's point ("Why I'm voting for John McCain," by William E. Saracino, *CPR,* March/April 2008) about judicial appointments.

When we use politics to indulge our emotions ("punishing" McCain by refusing to vote for him) instead of prudently taking the opportunity to do something to protect our freedom, we lose.

Sylvia Roberts
Palm Springs

Species-first/People last

Nearly two hundred years after Hans Christian Anderson wrote "The Emperor's New Clothes," M. David Stirling ("Coming home to roost," *CPR,* March/April 2008) is able to write that "Most Americans are unfamiliar with the ESA's 'species-first/people last' orientation and record, due largely to the major media's failure to report on its harsh impact on people."

Anderson's tale became a perennial because it keys on humanity's weird penchant for cooperating in its own deception. The most glaring point about reporting on ESA is the media's ironic willingness to smother the truth, but the second point is that the people, at least many of them, wouldn't have it any other way.

Phil Smith
Canoga Park

Known reserves and unknown oil

Among the goals the spurious listing of the polar bear as "endangered" is intended to serve is adding another barrier to America achieving energy independence, specifically by opening up the Alaskan North Slope. Democrats bolster this campaign by telling us America has only 2 percent of the world's known reserves of oil, as though opening everything could add only that amount of oil at best. But "known reserves" are not the same as "total supplies of oil." If they were, oil men would have no use for the word "exploration."

Known reserves should be understood as being like a local retailer's stock on hand, which of course bears no relationship to total supplies in the economy. It is determined by the requirements of keeping customers supplied and, therefore, it is most efficient to keep the level of those reserves as low as possible, since the exploration that must precede identifying it is expensive.

What is becoming increasingly clear is that all these Democrat campaigns against energy are designed to impoverish the nation — their own — and the people — themselves — that, after all, they tell us, day after day, they can't stand anyway.

Geoff Koopman
Sacramento

Preferring the purity of losing

Ray Haynes ("New lyrics ... but the same old tune," *CPR,* March/April

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SACRAMENTO SPECTATOR

The annual Jazz Festival and mostly meaningless June primary have come and gone, but the year-round circus in the form of the governor and Legislature continues to amuse the yokels and burden the taxpayers.

There is a truism that if you see someone every day you don't notice gradual changes, like weight loss or gain, in that person. Having recently traveled around the state and talked to a fair sampling of GOP grassy grass roots types, I discovered that the same holds true for being in Sacramento every day and noticing the continuing decline in regard that GOP activists have for the governor and most legislators. I must say that even for a cynic such as your Spectator.

Outside of New Majority millionaire types it was virtually impossible to find a Republican willing to defend the governor. Whatever goodwill or residual belief (hope?) GOP activists held for him has vanished. His inexplicable appointment of the traitorous Jane Fonda to the California Hall of Fame was the last straw for many. This simply capped a downhill slide of budgetary and tax matters. This slide has been mirrored in recent surveys, where the Austrian Oak's approval numbers make him look more like a Sacramento sapling ... or perhaps just a sap.

A large majority of Republicans I talked to — and this was a sampling far wider than just conservative, CRA types, has had it with him, and a surprising number have surmised that recalling Gray Davis was a long-term mistake. Enormous bitterness surrounds the Jeff Denham recall effort, for which the governor is rightly blamed along with the Democrat's former Senate Leader, Don Parata. The GOP contingent in the Legislature is suffering fallout from the ill feelings toward the governor held by the rank and file.

Spectating — as I do — at the trendy watering holes and night spots around our Capital, I realize that by and large the GOP legislators are far different, and far better, than the governor. They are far more willing to stand and fight for GOP principals. But, in my opinion, they need a better PR machine to communicate this fighting spirit to the local GOP.

Local Republicans have an innate sense that Governor Schwarzenegger, still in the grip of his "post-partisan" fever, happily gives away to Democrats any advantage that comes from united GOP legislative fronts. Looking at a November election that most likely features a Democrat landslide in the presidential race (in California only, let me hasten to add ... I am sanguine about McCain's overall chances), my advice to GOP legislators is to work their districts hard, and don't be afraid to distance yourself from the governor on issues of principal.

Republican voters have come to the conclusion that Arnold can find no basic GOP principal worth fighting for. They yearn for leadership that shows a way out of the wilderness of Democrat domination, and now realize that the Schwarzenegger plan for this: unilateral surrender, is a failure. The average Republican is ready to admit that the Emperor is wearing no clothes, if the legislative GOP is brave enough to say so.

Of course, the goveronr still casts a long shadow, as he did recently over Prop. 98, but the fear that engenders is begining to wear thin. He is at the point where no one expects him to do the right thing, so what is there to fear? What has anyone to lose by opposing him?

— A.P.C.

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The Working Press

Hip-hop, Bad Boys, and a hapless *L.A. Times*

More feeble fact checking leads to bogus reporting and a groveling apology from The Gray Whale.

GEORGE NEUMAYR

THOUGH HELD in low esteem by the public, journalists are generally considered of greater social value than hip-hop rappers. But leave it to the *Los Angeles Times* to reverse this equation.

In March, the paper managed to blow yet another hole in its reputation while generating feelings of sympathy for rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs.

In an article titled "An Attack on Tupac Shakur Launched a Hip-Hop War," the *Times* asserted that new information in FBI reports bolstered the late Shakur's claims that pals of Combs arranged a 1994 shooting in New York as payback for Shakur's refusal to sign with Combs's Bad Boy Records.

The "new" information turns out to be bogus and the FBI reports fabricated, as the *Times* admitted in a groveling apology in April. Lawyers for Combs had warned the paper against publication, but it blundered on anyway.

No, Dan Rather has not come out of retirement. Blame for this botched story falls largely on the shoulders of *Times* staff writer Chuck Philips. Many *Times* stories show traces of feeble fact-checking, but this one was a real whopper, a full-blown hoax that its Pulitzer-Prize winning reporter swallowed whole.

Chalk this debacle up as one more victory for the new media over the old. Just as bloggers exposed Rather's faked-up National Guard memos about George W. Bush, so Internet hounds at *smokinggun.com* blew the lid off this fabrication. They noticed suspicious misspellings and an odd typeface in the purported FBI reports.

Old media journalists often sniff at uncredentialed "bloggers" who hammer away at their sites while still clad in their "pajamas," as a CNN executive once sneered. But the fact is those pajama-clad bloggers are exposing credentialed journalists as jackasses bereft of basic common sense. Rappers and bloggers don't look so bad next to the partisan clowns and incompetents of the old media.

Before the rise of debunking bloggers, a sham story like this one could go undetected for years and maybe even make its way into history books. Now it takes less than an afternoon for a blogger to shoot one down.

Probing the twists and turns of the "hip-hop world" was a dumb move in the first place, but typical of the *Times's* oh-so-broad-minded approach to story selection and its patronizing multiculturalism.

I remember picking up the paper a few years back and staring at the first of a gigantic, multi-part series on "female boxers." That's its idea of news. Judging by its sagging circulation numbers, I don't think I'm alone in thinking that this sort of story selection is ludicrous.

Then again, perhaps I'm being unfair here and this story about rappers represents a positive step, if a bit wobbly and clumsy, toward its new goal of intensely local coverage. I'm sure inner-city rappers pore over the paper carefully before commencing a day of composition on such topics as cop-killing and domestic abuse.

The relatively new owner of the *Times,* Sam Zell, doesn't even bother to read the paper unless he "happens to be" traveling through LA, according to *laobserved.com.* Rumors persist that he is eager to sell the paper off.

HE CONSIDERS the paper's long-standing aspiration to be a beacon of national and international coverage tiresome — an attitude that rankles the paper's reporters and editors. He treats reporters with "utter contempt," said one departing *Times* staffer.

George Neumayr is California Political Review's *press critic.*

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THE FRONT LINE

Tom McClintock's 54 to 39 percent victory (taking every one of the district's nine counties) over liberal GOP candidate Doug Ose beat Ose's $4.6 million (including nearly $3 million of his own money) anti-McClintock print and broadcast barrage. It also beat former Gov. Pete Wilson's Ose endoresement (ha!).

Ose's campaign themes included hitting McClintock as an "obstructionist" for having rejected retiring Republican incumbent John Doolittle's courting of earmarked federal dollars. *Wall Street Journal* writer John Fund reported that "Doolittle had built a local political empire by excoriating liberals while bringing home federal bacon. He once told me that he marveled over how well Democrats and Republicans got along on the Appropriations Committee he sat on: 'It's because we so often have the same priorities' – namely, spending other people's money."

McClintock answered that "Earmarks aren't only bankrupting our nation, they are corrupting our Congress. An earmarked project winds up costing the community that gets it far more in taxes in the long run." Tom's point about congressional corruption touched the theme many voters believe lost Republicans control of Congress two years ago. Given a choice between the Ose-Doolittle message of more local pork and McClintock's of fiscal responsibility, the district's GOP voters made their preference clear.

Showing (yet again) which Republican ideological camp really prefers clinging to its narrow-minded "principles" even when it means losing elections, Ose was backed by more than 70 local officials that Fund reported Doolittle had "showered with money." A Placer County Supervisor said "Doug understands the federal government has the responsibility to solve problems." To which

McClintock, in vintage form, referenced Thomas Jefferson who "warned about the corrupting influence of pork-barrel spending and said those costs would be reduced if paid for close to home."

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association continues in its tax waster wachdog role. A mid-June column by Jarvis President Jon Coupal noted that "[state Senate President Don] Perata is making good on his threat, voiced last month, that there will be no budget without a tax increase. He and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass want at least $11.5 billion in new taxes. Make no mistake, Bass and Perata are not targeting opposition lawmakers or the governor with their threats. They are menacing already overburdened taxpayers." *(See: http://www.hjta.org/)*

The Pacific Legal Foundation, which seems always to be standing up for things it is hard to believe need defending, is fighting a bizarre California Coastal Commission campaign against celebration of the Fourth of July, in *Gualala Festivals Committee v. California Coastal Commission.*

Although no north state coast fireworks displays — including one at Bodega Bay — have ever been asked to obtain a coastal development permit, the Coastal Commission has suddenly chosen to demand one out of the blue of the Gualala Festivals Committee, a group of local citizens in Gualala, California, that for several years has held "Patriot Days" to celebrate the Fourth.

This harassament began after a group of homeowners said the display was disturbing a group of nesting birds on a BLM-controlled island in the ocean. Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas labeled the fireworks display "development" within the meaning of the Coastal Act, and PLF's intervention challenges the Commission's jurisdiction over the fireworks display — proving once more that PLF is California's indispensible soldier for our rights and the rule of law. CPR

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It is not surprising that the *Times,* given its unfolding chaos, didn't win a single Pulitzer this year. The prizes were announced in April, and only one paper in Los Angeles snagged one — *Investor's Business Daily* in the category of editorial cartoons. *IBD* had the sense to pick up cartoonist Michael Ramirez, who now has two Pulitzers, after the *Times* boneheadedly sacked him in 2005. Ramirez was apparently too conservative and controversial for the paper.

Peter Spiegel, a Pentagon correspondent for the *Times,* writing at *poynter.org* in April, admits the paper has "hit a bit of a cold streak," but he resents suggestions that it has dropped out of the "Big Three" newspapers in the country (considered by some now to be the *Washington Post, New York Times,* and *Wall Street Journal).* "Just because we're on a different coast doesn't mean we're not a serious player in national and international reporting," he wrote.

Laobserved.com reports that the paper's top editors went on "retreat" in April. They stayed at a beachfront site to hash out strategies to "stop the bleeding." According to the Web site's sources, the retreat entailed some "touchy-feely rituals — hugs, talking sticks, gongs." Did it also include a "trust fall" or two? Let's hope so. That's a corporate group-training practice, achieved when someone trusts his colleagues enough to fall backwards into their arms from a height, though I suppose one might not want to trust bumbling colleagues in the pit below who mistake third-rate fabrications for FBI reports.

Instead of hiring a private eye to harass his journalistic critics, perhaps former Walt Disney studio executive Michael Ovitz should have buddied up to pajama-clad bloggers. As he testified in April, Ovitz, suffering from bad press, hired "private eye to the stars" Anthony Pellicano to dig up dirt on reporters. (Pellicano is on trial for wiretapping and other charges.)

WHAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD ABOUT GUN CONTROL

By SAM PAREDES

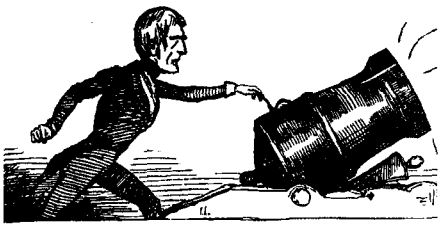
Did you know that it's legal for law-abiding Americans to own machine guns? In fact, machine guns have never been banned. Machine guns are legally owned by thousands of Americans throughout the country — even in California.

It wasn't until the 1920s and '30s, during the Bonnie and Clyde, John Dillinger, and Al Capone era, that the federal government decided to step into the act. With the passage of the 1934 National Firearms Act, instead of banning machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, and silencers, the Feds decided to tax them.

This was a way the government could tell who legally possessed these firearms. If an owner did not have a tax stamp, which required registration papers and a fee, they were committing a felony. No one thought anything about it. The point being that there was and still is no ban.

So what does the Second Amendment really mean when it says "A well regulated Militia being necessary for the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed"?

Our founding fathers considered all able-bodied male citizens members of the militia who, therefore, had the right to, when called up, stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers in the standing army, equally armed with their own firearms. The direct lineal descendants of the firearms our founders were referring to are machine guns, which are the standard issue to today's troops.



None other than Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg raised this very point recently during oral argument in *Heller v. D.C.* If the Second Amendment refers to the Militia and the right to have militia-type arms, Ginsburg asked: "...why wouldn't the machine gun qualify? [Solicitor] General told us that's standard issue in the military." Good question.

And here's something else to think about. Since 1934, only one crime has been committed with a legally taxed machine gun. CPR

Sam Paredes is executive director of Gun Owners of California.

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Ovitz paid Pellicano $75,000 to collect "embarrassing" information on, among other reporters, Anita Busch, who was then writing pieces for the *Los Angeles Times*. "It was an extraordinarily difficult time for the company and for me," explained Ovitz at the trial. But he claims ignorance of Pellicano's hard-ball tactics, which include, prosecutors say (according to *Reuters),* leaving a dead fish "with a rose in its mouth and a note saying 'Stop' on Busch's shattered car windshield."

Ovitz showed no remorse at the trial. He straightforwardly said that he needed to find a way to make the bad press go away lest his company, Artists Management Group, which was then open to bids, be devalued by it. "All I wanted was a graceful exit from the business and to leave people with jobs," he said.

Busch, who took the stand after Ovitz, recounted her troubles that followed his hiring of Pellicano: computer viruses, tampered-with phone lines, and a couple of death threats. She also recalled a man "with a sickening smile" who drove at her menancingly and then sped off after lifting his "middle finger" at her.

Pellicano, who is acting as his own attorney, grilled Busch, who sobbed intermittenly during her testimony. "Surrounded by two boxes of tissues," *Reuters* reported, Busch inadvertently caused chuckles in the courtroom as she described a meeting with her *Times* editor and an attorney for the paper, Karlene Goller. She asked them for advice on how to handle and identify the threats. To laughter, Busch, speaking to Pellicano, said that Goller "suggested calling you." CPR

The Law

Beyond trampling property rights

The Coastal Commission 'advances' to a willingness to risk even human life.

J. DAVID BREEMER

The California Coastal Commission was created to address coastal land-use issues of statewide significance, while allowing local governments to continue making day-to-day permitting decisions. The Commission was also charged with balancing property rights and economic reality with environmental concerns. Unfortunately, The Commission long ago abandoned its original mission. Rather than focusing on large projects in sensitive areas, the Commission has engaged in a campaign to micromanage all private land use along the coast and to override local governments that approve development as being in the best interests of the community. The Commission is driven by an obsession with environmental and aesthetic purity along the coast.

The Commission's current attack on a decades-old, bluff fence in Torrance Beach, California, aptly illustrates just how far The Commission will go to stop locally approved construction. Indeed, in the bluff fence dispute (in *Burke v. California Coastal Commission)* The Commission is willing to risk even public safety and to scuttle long-standing compromises between private rights and public property to advance its utopian vision of a more pristine coastline.

The coastal bluffs at Torrance Beach, near Palos Verdes, rise from a popular sandy strip of beach to a bluff top. There sit modest residential homes built approximately 40 years ago. The face and bottom of the bluffs, which are the private property of the homeowners, are unstable. In the late 1950s, a youth died in a bluff cave-in. In 1965, another youth died and one was injured after they left the beach to climb the bluff. Last year, the California Geological Survey confirmed that the bluffs remain an active landslide area.

After the 1960s bluff injuries, a chain-link fence was built at the bluff bottom, on Martin Burke's land and adjacent property, to stop people from trespassing on

J. David Breemer is a principal attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation.

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the bluffs. Numerous credible persons, including Los Angeles County lifeguards, have declared in writing that the fence was erected before 1973, the year in which the Coastal Commission was born. Local permits were obtained at the time, and The Commission soon approved other fences immediately connected to Burke's.

In the 1970s, a dispute arose between the City of Torrance and the bluff property owners about the public's right to use the sandy land at the toe of the bluffs. The property owners claimed the area was private, but the City disagreed. A preliminary compromise was soon negotiated by Burke in which the property owners would give the public an easement to use the sandy area in return for the permanent right to keep the fence separating the public from the bluffs. The State Lands Commission then became involved and eventually agreed to the compromise.

The property boundary agreement was formally signed in 1988 by the property owners, the City, the State Lands Commission, the state Attorney General's Office, and Governor George Deukmejian, on behalf of the people of California.

For approximately the next 17 years, the Coastal Commission never objected to the fence or challenged the compromise with the state that had allowed it.

But ... what the Commission ignores one day can turn out to be the target in its self-defined environmental mission the next. Burke found this out the hard way in 2005 when he sought to repair the fence. Unexpectedly, the City referred him to the Coastal Commission. The Commission in turn told him, for the first time, that the fence was illegal development because no one had obtained its approval before it was built. It demanded that Burke seek a permit from the Commission.

Burke objected. After all, the governor of the state of California had signed an agreement allowing the fence, and the property owners had given up a valuable piece of beachfront property in return for the right to keep the fence. But when threatened with enforcement action, Burke filed an application. During the permit process, Burke provided extensive evidence showing that the fence predated the existence of the Commission and was therefore outside its authority. He provided the Commission with the original news reports of the deaths and injuries on the bluffs. Nevertheless, The Commission voted to deny a permit for the fence. It's reasons? It claimed the fence harmed public views of the bluff and that its unsightliness deterred public use of the nearby sandy area.

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Of course, such reasoning isn't new for The Commission. It has a troubling history of interfering with private property based on subjective ideas of what looks good and bogus public beach access claims. In 1987, the Supreme Court rebuked the agency for engaging in a "plan of out and out extortion" in trying to force a couple to give the agency beachfront land in return for a permit to build a three-bedroom home. The Commission demanded the land on the basis that the proposed home interfered with existing public beach access, but when Pacific Legal Foundation sued, the court found this to be untrue.

More recently, the Commission attempted to deny construction of a home on a 40-acre ocean front lot because the house would interfere with views looking *from the sea to land.* Again, it took a PLF lawsuit to put the Commission in its place, resulting in a court holding that the Commission was engaged in a plan to subordinate private property rights to the views of passing boaters.

WHILE THE Commission's public views and access playbook may be standard for permit denials, its application to Burke's case is especially remarkable. For in Burke, The Commission is not only subverting property rights to its idea of a prettier view; it is willing to risk human life. When the fence was not there, people died on the bluffs; since it was built, there have been *no injuries.* But to the Commission, continued public safety is apparently less important than an unobstructed public view of the bluffs. The Commission's suggestion that the fence undermines public use of the sandy beach near the fence is equally divorced from reality. After all, the public would have no right to use that area if not for the 1988 agreement in which the state and city agreed to the fence. In a real way, it is the fence that afforded the public any access at all.

When Burke sued the Coastal Commission, a Los Angeles Superior Court upheld The Commission's action, paving the way for the fence to come down and the public once again trespass on the bluffs. But PLF has since appealed this dangerous decision to the California Court of Appeals. The Commission's subjective beliefs about views cannot be allowed to trump public safety, expose property owners to unnecessary liability from trespassers, or undermine valid contracts between the state and property owners that benefit both the public and private owners. Common sense must prevail. The Commission must be told to keep its hands off the fence. As long as the Commission continues unnecessarily and unlawfully trampling on Burke's property rights and local concerns, PLF will be there to put The Commission back in its rightful place. CPR

A Closer Look

So what does Obama really believe?

Black Liberation Theology is not an idea peculiarly held by Reverend Jeremiah Wright.

MICHAEL S. FREDENBURG

AS IN past presidential races, the religious affiliation and beliefs of the major presidential candidates have become front and center issues. In particular the views of Barack Obama's particular brand of Christianity have been called into question due to his long membership in Reverend Jeremiah Wright's Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC).

One truth about Christianity is that the number of

Michael S. Fredenburg covers social issues policy and politics for California Political Review.

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Reverend Wright s beliefs are not just his own. They are, in fact, part of a much bigger and widely existing movement known as Liberation Theology; and in particular Black Liberation Theology.

differences over major and minor points of doctrine among churches and denominations are legion. Issues such as pre-millennial v. post-millennial, Calvinism v. Armenism, consubstantiation v. transubstantiation, leavened host v. unleavened host, healing, etc, etc, have all produced divisions in the church. As a result, many Christians of good will have agreed to disagree on these issues and still acknowledge those with different beliefs as brothers and sisters in Christ as long as they hold to the central tenets of Christianity: *i.e.* Jesus as the one and only true God (not merely *a* god, as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons believe), the Trinity, salvation through the grace provided by Jesus' death on the cross, and of course the resurrection.

Given the huge variety of doctrinal differences across various churches and denominations, it could be tempting just to lump Reverend Wright's beliefs into the panoply of beliefs that make up the "Church." However Reverend Wright's beliefs are not just his own. While the whole Reverend Wright episode has been reported as if Wright were merely an independent pastor with his own particular views — views each of his congregants is free to share or not according to his own conscience — those views are, in fact, part of a much bigger and widely existing movement known as Liberation Theology; and in particular Black Liberation Theology (BLT), as espoused and written about by Black Liberation Theologians James Cone and Cornel West.

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Since Barack Obama has attended Reverend Wright's church for some 20 years; and since his wife Michelle has found it to be a place she feels comfortable attending; and since they were married in Reverend Wright's Church, it might make sense to understand just what Black Liberation Theology teaches.

First and foremost Black Liberation Theology heavily focuses on being black and the black experience at the hands of rich white people. So from the outset it promotes the "us" and "them" mindset. White is white and black is black. Blacks are universally the victims of rich white people and Jesus's ministry and message has to be interpreted in the light of it being a theology of liberation not merely from sin, but liberation from your oppressors in this world, *i.e.:* the white oppressors.

Central to Black Liberation Theology is the conception of every person of color as a victim. This is so important and central to BLT that, in light of it, all progress made in the areas of providing equality of opportunity for blacks is dismissed, marginalized, or minimized. Victimhood is critical to the effective evangelization of BLT; acknowledging significant progress is just not part of the BLT movement and most likely never will be.

So, what if you are successful and black? You are either a sellout or the exception that proves the rule. BLT apologists tend to devote themselves largely to "documenting" black oppression at the hands of the white races. On the other hand, they virtually ignore

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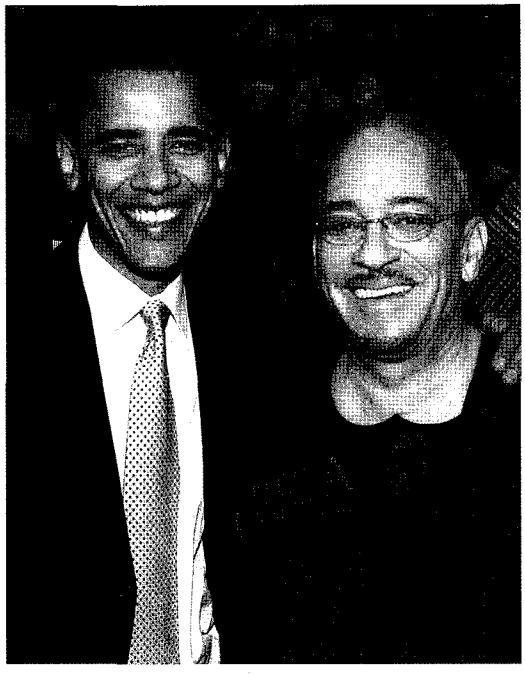
still-existing slavery in Africa, as they do the inconvenient point that many of the slaves brought to Europe and the United States were sold into slavery by other black Africans profiting from the slave trade. Barack Obama runs as the candidate who will advance the cause of equality. Should he not acknowledge the plain truth that any effective effort for this cause requires some acknowledgement of progress made to date and a recognition of failings on both sides? How can a policy maker unwilling or unable to acknowledge such progress not limit his effectiveness severely?



In addition to the extreme emphasis on victimhood, BLT emphasizes redistribution of wealth under the principle of "Economic Parity." Economic Parity is not just an occasional topic for Reverend Wright's sermons. It is included in Trinity United Church's Ten Point Vision statement, which says the Church is committed to helping "the less fortunate to become agents of change for God who is not pleased with America's economic mal-distribution!" While God is saddened by poverty and hunger and does command His people to be charitable, it is also true that the God of the Bible is not about the race-based class dialectic and redistribution of wealth. That is, unless — like Wright — you are a disciple of Cone and West who explicitly and proudly bring Marxist principles into the Black Liberation theology to which Wright subscribes.

Anthony Bradley, assistant professor of Theology at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, writes:

> Black Liberation theologians James Cone and Cornel West have worked diligently to embed Marxist thought into the black church since the 1970s. For Cone, Marxism best addressed remedies to the condition of blacks as victims of white oppression. In *For My People,* Cone explains that "the Christian faith does not possess in its nature the means for analyzing the structure of capitalism. Marxism as a tool of social analysis can disclose the gap between appearance and reality, and thereby help Christians to see how things really are.

So, like the more general Liberation Theology, Black Liberation Theology relies for much of its intellectual underpinnings upon Marxist thought and doctrine. And, as observers have noted, when Liberation Theology adherents encounter direct conflicts between Christian and communist principles, communism prevails.

Are Black Liberation Theology/Liberation Theology Christian movements? This question is a far different from asking whether people who subscribe to Liberation Theology are saved – that is between them and God. The answer at the movement/doctrinal level is that the theology of Liberation Theology is unchristian in so many ways that all major conservative denominations *(i.e.* denomination that actually believe the Bible is the Word of God) including the Catholic Church and Pope Benedict have labeled Liberation Theology a heresy, which should come as no surprise given that besides the unholy wedding of communism and Christianity, Liberation Theology has worked to separate people into opposing groups. This is, of course, absolutely contrary to Paul's admonition (Galatians 3:28): "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

WHERE DOES that leave us with presidential hopeful Barack Obama and his beautiful and talented wife Michelle? It leaves us with many legitimate questions. Questions such as: is it really plausible to believe that Barack attended TUCC for 20 years with Reverend Wright as his mentor and spiritual advisor and yet does not subscribe to much or most of Black Liberation Theology? Is Barack Obama's primary allegiance to the United States or to the "mother country" of Africa, as Black Liberation Theology mandates? Finally, can the American people really expect Barack Obama to make good policy decisions in spite of the distorted world view with which he has been inculcated?

It also puts some of Barack's and Michelle's public actions and words under a revealing light. For example, Barack's evident distaste for wearing an American Flag on his lapel and Michelle's statement that for the first

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time she is proud to be an American. In a Black Liberation church like TUCC such sentiment would be accepted, endorsed, applauded. After all, how can one be proud of a county that is really just a big version of the Ku Klux Klan? How can one be proud of a culture that created AIDs to devastate the black community? How can one be proud to live in a country so morally reprehensible that it deserved and brought 9/11 upon itself? All preceding views courtesy of Reverend Wright.

Is it possible Senator Obama has been going to TUCC for 20 years just for the singing and after service homemade cookies and coffee? — maybe. However, given his publicly-stated plans to engage in a massive redistribution of wealth to correct the "maldistribution of wealth" in this country; and given his unwillingness to acknowledge the progress that has been made in this country in providing equality of opportunity — the most probable and reasonable conclusion is that he actually is a proponent and disciple of Black Liberation Theology.

Yes, other conclusions can be reached, but they just aren't as reasonable. CPR

Correspondence

(Continued from page 2)

2008) writes that the governor's staff threatened that "I might find the governor opposing my election if I continued to point to the perils of his high spending."

Where is the "watchdog" media to repeat such stories when the liberal-GOP chant begins about conservatives supposedly preferring to lose elections rather than bend a few precious principles. Of course, inviting disaster by continual over-spending is not very principled. Maybe that's the difference.

Jennifer Robinson
San Mateo

Ray Haynes writes that Republican governors have been making the same budgetary mistakes not only as their Democrat colleagues have been making but as Republicans themselves keep on making for decades now, going back to Pete Wilson. As my mother used to say: "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice shame on me!" What do you say to fool me over and over again and I still keep falling for it? The monotonous nonsense that passes for budget wisdom — tax hikes to cover irresponsible spending and can't do it, prejudiced favoritism lent to spending that is always treated as sacrosanct while taking more money from taxpayers is always option number one — and so forth, is a shame on all of us and a continuing indication that neither party seems ready to take their jobs in office seriously.

Randy Robinson
Toluca Lake

Billary strikes again

Hillary Clinton (as reported in George Neumayr's "Working Press" column, "Move on? Not so fast: Lefties gag on latest Billary tactics," *CPR,* Mar./April) wants America to know that Martin Luther King was wasting his time until Lyndon Johnson came along to codify his ideas and "dream" into law. But what Johnson and his "Great Society" did was betray the King dream, as liberalism, that seeks to enforce good intentions with brute force, always does.

King wanted a voluntary end to segregation — when it was done by the state it had to be undone by law, to be sure, but the crux of the matter was that the people would demand it of their representatives, not the other way around. The man who hoped to see the day when all of us would be judged by the content of our character was not about beating people up with state harassment until they quit being racists. He believed in changing minds one at a time so that all of us would gain the benefits our good characters deserved. By making desegregation a matter of state mandate, the liberals consigned those minorities that benefited by it to become recipients of a kind of government dole, re-establishing the liberal plantation for them, leaving them dependent upon the power of the state, not the content of their characters, allowing them to be rewarded not for being good people, but as tokens of a favored class.

So far from fulfilling the dream, as Hillary apparently believes it did, the Lyndon Johnson legacy is the reversal of the King vision. That's the main reason that the steady progress black Americans had been making through King-like erosion of the old prejudices for decades leading up to the '60s abruptly ended in the '60s to be replaced by welfare state dependency, destruction of the black family and social structure, and disintegration of black culture. Fatherless welfare "families," burned out neighborhoods, and drug-infested gangland hell are the gifts Johnson gave to blacks, the opposite of the King vision.

James Anderson
Fresno

Recall the Chief

A movement to recall California

(Please turn to page 26)

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GREEN GONE WILD

Where some animals are more equal: M. David Stirling's exposé of a once-idealistic movement's capture by an ideology that puts people last

Elevating Nature Above Human Rights

FOR 35 YEARS, the Endangered Species Act has been implemented and enforced — in the words of the U.S. Supreme Court — at "whatever the cost." The harsh, unbending operation of the Act has cost numerous human lives and put human health and safety at risk. Yet, rarely does the mainstream media report these deaths or life-threatening incidents as having any connection to the Endangered Species Act.

Government agencies such as the FWS, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Forest Service steadfastly stonewall reports that the ESA caused or contributed to human deaths or threatened health and safety. The media-astute exclusionist organizations, with their ample financial resources, utilize aggressive media consultants, internet publications, and mass mailings to turn accounts of the ESA hurting people on their heads. For example, the website of the National En-

This article appears in slightly longer form as "Deaths and Endangered Species," chapter 11 of Green Gone Wild *by* California Political Review *Contributing Editor M. David Stirling; Merril Press, Bellevue, WA, 2008, www.merrilpress.com.*

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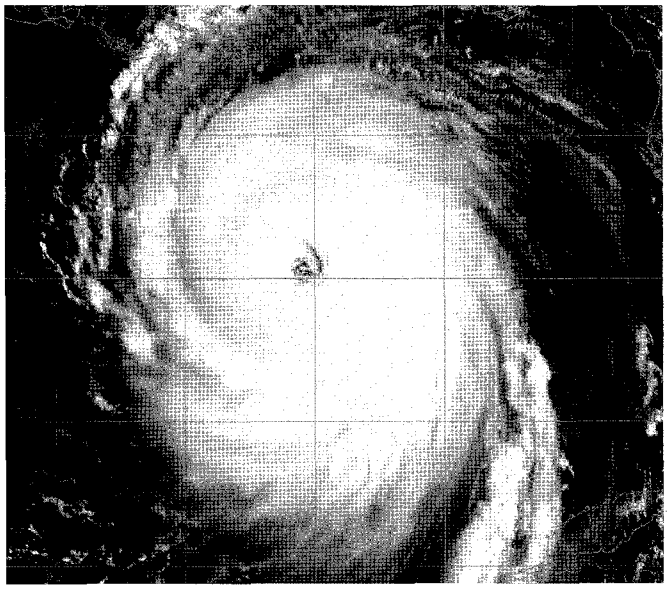
vironmental Trust declares stories of ESA-inflicted harm as "apocryphal stories and anecdotes," many of them "pure fiction or, at best, half-truths." Never shy about stretching the truth, these groups deny or downplay ESA culpability by attributing its dire consequences to any conceivable cause other than the ESA. As a result, many people remain in the dark as to the ESA's true record. That record is evident in the real-life accounts that follow, although they are but a sampling of those that could be told.

Hurricane Katrina and Saving Shrimp and Crabs in Lake Pontchartrain

[Hurricane] Betsy made ... landfall on September 9 [1965] over Grand Isle, Louisiana, at just 1 mph below Category 5 strength. The hurricane moved up the Mississippi River, causing the river to rise ten feet at New Orleans. A storm surge moved into Lake Pontchartrain and overtopped and breeched levees, flooding much of the city, including the 9th Ward More than 160,000 homes were flooded along the Mississippi, and Betsy became the first storm in



Formation of Katrina, a cateory 5 hurricane, 2005.

United States history to exceed $1 billon in damages.

Not long after Hurricane Betsy's massive damage in southeastern Louisiana, including 58 deaths, Congress approved, and President Lyndon Johnson signed, the Flood Control Act of 1965. Among other flood control improvements around the nation, the act authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to design and construct the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Barrier Project. Lying north of the city of New Orleans, Lake Pontchartrain had risen almost 10 feet when Betsy's powerful storm-surge drove water from the Gulf of Mexico into the lake through two narrow passages named the Rigolets and the Chef Menteur Pass.

The model that the Army Corps chose for the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Barrier Project was

Not long after the Army Corps made public its plan, an exclusionist group known as Save Our Wetlands, supported by similar national organizations, raised environmental concerns and sparked opposition to the plan in New Orleans.

the massive storm gates that had been built to protect the coast of the Netherlands from North Sea surges.

Fully one-half of The Netherlands lies below sea level .... In 1953, hundred of miles of dikes along rivers gave way in a violent storm and the flooding killed nearly 2,000 people .... After the catastrophe, the Dutch government vowed 'never again' .... In their most ambitious project, the Dutch built three giant sea walls, called storm surge barriers, to protect the fragile inlets and dikes. The barriers remain open in normal weather — but during a storm surge 63 hydraulic-powered sluice gates, each 20 feet tall, keep the rising waters out.

The Lake Pontchartrain Barrier Project was to include two similar hydraulically powered gates that could be shut as a Category-3 hurricane approached New Orleans, thereby preventing the raging storm surges from barreling into the lake. The gates would be opened as soon as the danger from the storm surge had dissipated. Not long after the Army Corps made public its plan, an exclusionist group known as

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Save Our Wetlands, supported by similar national organizations, raised environmental concerns and sparked opposition to the plan in New Orleans.

In late 1977, nearly 12 years following congressional and presidential approval and annual funding of the barrier gates project, and with the Army Corps having engineered and cleared sites for its construction, Save Our Wetlands and allies petitioned a federal court in New Orleans for an injunction to stop the project on grounds that the Army Corps' environmental impact report was deficient. The court granted the injunction based on the petitioners' argument that the closed barrier gates would harm shellfish and other aquatic life in Lake Pontchartrain by diminishing the natural flow of Gulf waters into the lake. Although there were several grounds for appeal — one was that the huge gates would remain closed for only a few days — the Army Corps chose not to appeal the injunction.

In 1985, due largely to persistent litigation and pressure; the Army Corps abandoned the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Barrier Project. As an alternative, the Corps implemented a plan that was not objectionable to the exclusionist community; it consisted of little more than raising the numerous miles of levees surrounding New Orleans by about three feet, at a cost of more than $1 billion.

Much has been reported about the many lives lost and vast damage caused when Hurricane Katrina slammed into the southeastern Louisiana and Mississippi coasts on the morning of August 29, 2005. However, although "[s]ome parts of New Orleans were flooded by Hurricane Katrina's precipitation and overtopping of levees ... the major source of flood waters appears to have been the floodwall breaches of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project," that is, the precise location that the shelved barrier gate project would have protected. The 135 mph storm surge into Lake Pontchartrain pounded and in a matter of hours destroyed several levees on Lake Pontchartrain. Within 48 hours after Katrina passed, waters entering from Lake Pontchartrain's broken levees inundated 80 percent of the city, some areas by as much as 15 feet. Three-quarters of the 1,570 people in Louisiana who died from Katrina were residents of New Orleans.

"If we had built the barriers, New Orleans would not be flooded," said Joseph Towers, retired chief counsel for the Army Corps' New Orleans District at the time the barrier gates project was moving forward, in a 2005 *Los Angeles Times* interview.

Katrina Biloxi landfall, 2005

"My feeling was that saving human lives was more important than saving a percentage of shrimp and crab in Lake Pontchartrain. I told my staff at the time that this judge had condemned the city. Some people said I was being a little dramatic." The *Times* article also noted that "[t]he principal members of [Save Our Wetlands], several of whom lived in the flooded areas of the city, could not be reached for comment."

Sometimes after the *Los Angeles Times* article ran, Save Our Wetlands put a piece on its website condemning the newspaper for "violating basic journalistic ethics," criticizing Joseph Towers for "stirring up a hornet's nest of hatred and genocide against Save Our Wetlands," and accusing the Army Corps of "illegal and criminal acts." The Save Our Wetlands website article is worth reading if for no other purpose than to observe how the organization views and treats any who would disagree with its exclusionist approach.

The Feather River Levee and the Longhorn Elderberry Beetle

The northern half of California's Central Valley is home to several rivers, including the Feather, the Bear, the Yuba, the Sacramento, and the San Joaquin, each with its own sloughs and secondary streams. Beginning in the 1870s, an extensive system of levees was constructed along these waterways to protect the adjacent, highly favored farming land from frequent flooding. Later, these levees also served to channel northern California water to aqueducts that facilitated its

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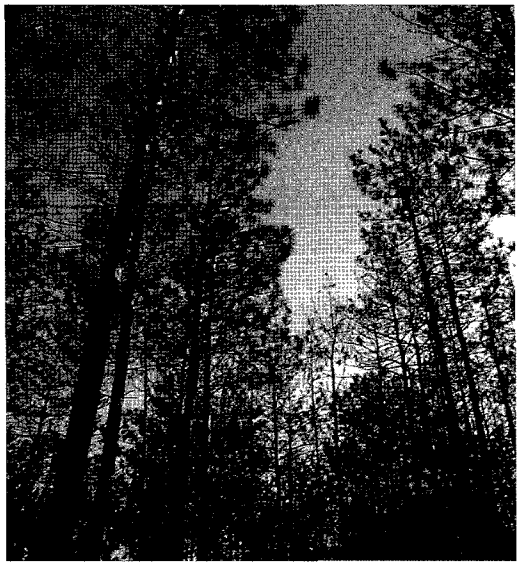
flow to the Central Valley and on to more arid southern California. Over the decades since, while there have been periodic levee breaks resulting in costly flooding of surrounding areas, the 1,600-mile system of northern Central Valley levees, for the most part, has performed its flood control function as well as rural levees built in the 19th century could be expected. But aging levees require continuous monitoring and ongoing maintenance.

While the State of California owns the levees, under state law, the daily monitoring and routine maintenance responsibilities are carried out by locally elected reclamation district boards, that impose annual levee maintenance assessments on district property owners to fund the monitoring, maintenance, and other general district expenses. In more rural areas, these districts have limited staff and resources. When serious levee problems, including emergencies arise, the funding for repairs is supposed to come from the state, with the major work performed under the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers. However, in practice, it is the local reclamation district people who work with the Army Corps to respond to levee repair issues, and with the FWS whenever an ESA-listed species is involved.



The pine bark beetle is considered an infestation to be cured. Flooding caused by over-zelous ESA enforcement not only killed people, it washed away the Elderberry Beetle too.

In 1986, high river levels due to heavy rainfall contributed to a levee rupture along the Feather River in the community of Arboga, near Olivehurst, north of the state capital, Sacramento. After staunching the leak, Reclamation District 784 decided to launch a major effort to restore the Feather River's levees within its district. According to Yuba County Supervisor Brent Hastey: "[t]his work [was] not new construction or betterment, but simply major maintenance to existing levees."

However, rather than allowing RD 784 to commence the needed levee restoration work immediately, FWS required the district to perform an environmental assessment of the levees. This study identified 43 clumps of elderberry bushes, made up of 1,538 stems, that would be disturbed by the proposed levee restoration work. The elderberry bush is habitat for the ESA-listed insect species known as the North Valley longhorn elderberry beetle. In addition, the FWS informed RD 784 that before any levee restoration could begin, the district had to mitigate the damage its work would cause to the 1,538 elderberry bush stems. The FWS demanded that the district purchase a 76-acre mitigation site, which, at then-going land prices, amounted to nearly $2 million in unanticipated costs to the district. As Supervisor Hastey testified to the House Resources Committee:

Rather than allowing RD 784 to commence the needed levee restoration work immediately, FWS required the district to perform an environmental assessment of the levees.

There were identified 43 clumps of elderberry bushes. And when an Elderberry bush is checked on by the Fish and Wildlife Service, they go through the process of measuring every stem. And every stem that is over one inch is required to be mitigated. They identified 1,538 stems on elderberry bushes. To mitigate it, they ripped out 76 acres of prime ... peaches that were in production and planted 76 acres [of elderberry bushes] at a cost of $1.9 million. Thy planted the elderberry bushes' stems at a 5-to-1 ratio .... It came to a cost of $55,800 per bush to mitigate for these stems for an Elderberry Beetle ... And when you talk to ... the Corps of Engineers, we would ask

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the Corps: "Why are we doing this?" And the Corps would say, "Because it's not worth fighting with Fish and Wildlife over this. It is just better to go spend the $2 million." And we would rip our hair out, and we would build mitigation-sites instead of fixing levees that protect people's lives.

In 1990, while the process that Supervisor Hastey described was under way, the Corps of Engineers conducted a separate study of RD 784's Feather River levees. The Corps reported that the district's proposed repairs should be performed as expeditiously as possible, stating, "Loss of life is expected under existing conditions, without remedial repairs, for major flood events." Yet, FWS paid no heed to the warning of its sister agency. Nearly seven more years passed with RD 784 working to comply — and pay for — all of FWS' ESA-based demands. No actual levee restoration work had yet begun.

Then, on January 2,1997, after unusually warm rains and melting snow swelled the rivers of northern California, the Feather river levee burst at the very Arboga site that RD 784 had feared and the Corps had referenced in its 1990 report. Claire Royal, a retired elementary school teacher, Marian Anderson, a grandmother married to the local levee manager, and Bill Nakagawa, a World War II veteran, died when the floodwaters inundated their community. The waters flooded 25 square miles, much of it prime agricultural land on which farm families depended, drove 32,000 people from their homes, and drowned 600 head of livestock. Ironically, the North Valley longhorn elderberry beetles that had lived in the elderberry bushes along the Feather River levee also were washed away.

Yet, despite indisputable evidence that the decade-long delay in levee restoration that led to these tragic consequences was due to the ESA, the exclusionists denied the obvious conclusion. Typical was the testimony of Walter Cook before the House Resources Committee in April 1997:

I am a retired attorney and I own a walnut orchard which is located adjacent to the Feather River Levee which broke on January 2, 1997. Much of my orchard was washed away. The remainder is covered by about six to eight feet of sand. My house, shop, and mobile home were disintegrated. Most of my equipment is hidden under the sand in unknown, scattered locations ....

[Nonetheless], *we need to change our outlook on the natural world. The destruction of my orchard is not the fault of nature. The Flood was caused by the refusal of we humans to accept the natural world the way it is. And our pitiful attempts to force the river to go where it would not go, blaming other species, which we are about to destroy forever, is not the answer.*

Despite our greed and arrogance, what right do we have to satisfy our own desires by driving other creatures to extinction? Humans can build faulty levees and dams that don't work, but we cannot create even one of nature's most insignificant bugs or rodents. Rather than doing everything we can to destroy the earth, we must learn to live with and protect the paradise we were given."

The Thirty Mile Fire — Where Fish Were Protected and Firefighters Died

For most of the 21 firefighters who became trapped in a narrow canyon in the Okanogan National Forest near Winthrop, Washington, on July 10, 2001, the Thirty Mile Fire will forever be a harrowing and tragic memory. Assigned initially to do mop-up work on the remnants of a nearly extinguished fire, 14 of the firefighters became trapped when exceptionally warm temperatures generated winds that caused stands of mature trees, suffering from months of drought, to explode into flames. Within a few hours, the fire expanded from roughly 100 acres to 2,500 acres.

On July 29, 2001, *the Seattle Times* published a lengthy article describing the fire fighters' valiant efforts to battle and survive the Thirty Mile Fire. The account that follows, including the quotes and notes of firefighters, is drawn from this compelling article, unless otherwise specified.

Dispatch logs and later interviews with firefighters at the scene indicate that the elite firefighting crew, called "Hot Shots," that had contained the previous evening's 100-acre blaze, retired for a rest-break at around 4:30 a.m. At that time, the local U.S. Forest Service office was called to schedule a helicopter that would scoop water from the nearby Chewuch River and douse the dying embers to begin at first light, about 5:30 a.m. The dispatch office advised that the

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helicopter could not be there until 10 a.m.

Saterllite view of California wildfires

The crew-boss for the arriving 21 firefighters who were replacing the Hot Shot crew, 24-year Forest Service firefighter, Ellreese Daniels, and the mission's crew-boss trainee, veteran Forest Service firefighter, Pete Kampen, briefed their squad leaders on how the mop-up work would be approached, including helicopter water-drops beginning at 10 a.m. At 10:22 a.m., although the helicopter had not yet arrived, the 21 firefighters began their mop-up assignment. With the night dew drying from the rising temperature, spot fires were beginning to crop up from the reviving embers; it was evident that this could become more than a mop-up action.

When the helicopter had not arrived by noon, Kampen radioed the dispatch office to voice his exasperation. Dispatchers responded by offering him a 300-gallon dump from a small air tanker, which Kampen declined because the canyon was too narrow for the plane to maneuver; he would wait for the helicopter that could fly lower and drop its loads with more precision. He was given no other information about the helicopter.

At 12:52 p.m., the original Hot Shot crew that had earlier knocked down the fire returned, and together with the 21 firefighters, worked quickly to put down the growing fire. They were making progress when a spot fire erupted in spruce trees in front of the fire line. After working the fire for a time in the 102-degree temperature, on top of the heat generated by their protective gear, the crews had to pull back for a rest and lunch break. Where was the helicopter?

At about 2 p.m., a fire manager arrived and urged the crews to step up their efforts before the fire jumped the road, surged up the canyon wall, and crossed into Canada, where it would likely burn for several weeks. All hands rushed back to the challenge. Still, no word on the helicopter.

At about 3 p.m., a call went out for hand crews to attack some small spot fires burning a short distance up the road. Pete Kampen and Ellreese Daniels responded, and so did another team headed by eight-year firefighter Tom Craven, whose work ethic and positive attitude gained respect among the crew. When he called to his team: "Let's do it," members Karen Fitzpatrick, Devin Weaver, and Jessica Johnson jumped to the order.

The teams attacked different spot fires along the road, some 50 to 75 feet apart. Suddenly, "without warning, the smoke column tumbled. The sky went dark and red. It hailed embers, red bouncing off hardhats, the vans, the road .... Now Kampen was scared. 'Get back in the van, *now,*' he ordered the six firefighters with him." From the spotter plane above came the order: "Everybody pull out."

There was only one road in and out of the Chewuch River Canyon. The first van down the road was the Hot Shot crew. By the time Kampen's team scrambled into their van, the flames were crossing the road. He barreled through the invading flames just as the road became impassable. The time was 3:58 p.m.

At the last moment, recognizing that the road was now impenetrable, crew-boss Daniels, with the remaining crew members, turned his van around, and the 14 trapped firefighters headed back up the canyon, looking for the widest spot in the road with no trees. That was where a slope of rocks rose on one side of the road. They exited the van, each looking for the safest place: Daniels and eight others chose locations on the road; Craven and four others hiked a ways up the slope, looking for a flat spot with no shrubbery to burn. Although crew-boss Daniels later stated that he called out to those on the slope that it was not the best place, none of the five — perhaps not hearing him — came down.

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One crew member recorded his observations and thoughts in a small notebook, which *the Seattle Times* reporters included in their story:

The wind rips through the canyon, I watch the top of trees swaying violently from the high wind that the fire is creating. It's changing and twisting all around us. Still for a time, there appeared the possibility that the fire might push to the north, missing them. But at about 5:24 p.m., the fire fell back on itself and pushed straight at them .... Daniels barked to pull out their fire shelters .... The fire washed over them. A sound like a jet. A locomotive.

Four of the five did not answer the call: Tom Craven, 30, father of two young children; Karen Fitzpatrick, 18, a month out of high school and three weeks out of fire school; Devon Weaver, 21, an electrical engineering student who finished firefighter school six weeks before; and Jessica Johnson, 19, a college student.

A tidal wave. A scream.

When the roaring flames had passed over them and it was safe to emerge from their protective shelters, Daniels ordered a head count. The 10 who deployed on the road survived. Four of the five that had deployed their fire shelters on the rocky slope did not answer the call: Tom Craven, 30, father of two young children; Karen Fitzpatrick, 18, a month out of high school and three weeks out of fire school; Devon Weaver, 21, an electrical engineering student who finished firefighter school six weeks before; and Jessica Johnson, 19, a college student who knew even in high school that she wanted to fight wildfires. Each had been asphyxiated by the fire's superheated air. The fifth member who sat down on the rocks survived, but suffered severe burns.

Within hours of the fire's passing, word began circulating among the firefighters that the reason the helicopter was not deployed at a time when it could have changed the entire course of the day was that the Chewuch River contained ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Local Forest Service managers were reluctant to authorize scooping water from the river for fear of taking some of the fish. Two days later, the *Associated Press* confirmed that account, quoting the environmental officer for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests as saying that "environmental concerns caused crucial delays in dispatching the helicopter .... Because there are endangered species in the Chewuch River, they [local Forest Service managers] wanted to get permission from the district in order to dip into the river."

Fox News reported that the delay in deploying the helicopter — about five hours from its expected 10 a.m. drop time — was caused when the Okanogan dispatch office could not reach anyone at the district office with authority to approve the helicopter scooping water from the river. "Two former USFS firefighters familiar with the Thirty Mile Fire told *Fox News* that getting permission to dip into the Chewuch caused the delays that led to the death of their colleagues .... The first load of helicopter water was dumped on the fire at 3 p.m., but the fire was by then out of control."

Wildfire Heroes

Over the four and a half years since the fire, family members of the deceased firefighters have demanded that the Forest Service itself, and those in its ranks, be held accountable for managerial errors and regulation violations that appear to have occurred as the 21 firefighters fought and struggled to survive the Thirty Mile Fire. But instead of facing up to the real cause of that tragic day, in December 2006, the Forest Service, through the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, took a step unprecedented in federal forest firefighting history: charging crew-boss, Ellreese Daniels, with four counts of

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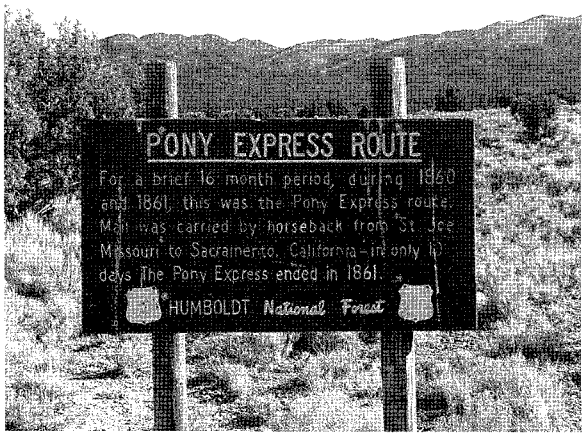
"involuntary manslaughter," for conduct "that was grossly negligent ... in wanton and reckless disregard for human life."


PONY EXPRESS ROUTE
For a brief 16 month period, during 1860 and 1861, this was the Pony Express route. Mail was carried by horseback from St. Joe, Missouri to Sacramento, California - in only 10 days. The Pony Express ended in 1861.
HUMBOLDT National Forest

US Forest Service Policy: Putting People Last

This scapegoating of one veteran Forest Service firefighter does a disservice to the young firefighters who died. Neither Daniels' conviction nor a plea bargain forcing his retirement from the Forest Service will prevent a similar tragedy in the future. The real culprit in the Okanogan National Forest on July 10, 2001, was not a person, but the nonnegotiable anti-people proposition advanced by exclusionists, and accepted by many in government, that species come first and people come last. As Mr. Daniels later lamented: "If we'd had the water when we asked for it, none of this would have happened." His trial has been set for January 15, 2008.

The Forest Service never admitted that dithering over whether they should scoop water from a river containing ESA-protected fish was the reason for the five-hour delay in dropping water when it would have made a difference. It was as if the ESA was so sacrosanct that even its misinterpretations by local Forest Service managers should not be officially discussed for fear the public might wake up and demand that people's lives and safety receive priority.

As one commentator noted, "The Forest Service's shameless revisionism about the Thirty Mile Fire shows that it's still more interested in blowing smokescreens than in clearing them up. Last month [referring to May 2002], the agency released a final report so full of blacked-out redactions that it looked like the authors had used pages to clean a charcoal grill."

But this was hardly an isolated case.

ESA Suit Bars Firefighting Tools And Costs Lives

In 1910, after a thousand wildfires came together and consumed three million acres of national forests in Idaho and Montana, killing 85 people, Congress declared war on wildfires as an enemy that was destroying the nation's forests. For the next 80 years Congress funded and encouraged the Forest Service to suppress every forest fire as aggressively as possible. "Forest Service camps and offices echoed with tales of fires fought and fires defeated until the culture became that of warriors. Specialized fire fighting crews became hot shots and smokejumpers."

Later, in the 1950s, the Forest Service began deploying airplanes and helicopters to drop chemical fire retardants on fires, while on the ground, bulldozers played an increasingly significant role in creating fire breaks and performing other critical fire suppression functions during and in advance of wildfires.

As a result of the Forest Service's aggressive fire-fighting approach, annual national forest acreage destroyed by wildfires diminished from 40 to 50 million acres in the early 1930s to about 5 million acres in the 1970s. "From 1994 to 2001, the Forest Service fought, on average, over 10,000 wildfires per year on national forests."

However, with the emergence of the modern environmental movement in the early 1960s, and its growing public influence during the next three decades, both Congress and presidential administrations began to view the national forests differently. As the early conflict between the exclusionism of John Muir's "pristine wilderness," and the conservation of Gifford Pinchot's "prudent use of forest resources," was replayed at century's end, commercial logging replaced wildfires as the primary enemy of the nation's forests.

As timber companies shut down in response to government policies to protect species under the ESA, thousands of logging families that had cared for the forests as their homes left to find other work. The exclusionist ideology greatly expanded the "wilderness" areas where humans were unwelcome, and also "roadless" areas. Indeed, the government closed hundreds of miles of national forest roads long used by firefighters to reach iso-

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lated wildfires quickly. Agencies terminated salvage timber sales, also called "post-fire logging" — the mutually beneficial practice of allowing timber companies to sell for profit fire-killed trees (that would become future fire-starting fuel) in return for cutting and removing them from the forest. Exclusionists demanded, and got, a reduction in the use of prescribed burns to clear away accumulating kindling-like undergrowth on the forest floor, on the grounds that the practice harmed protected species of plants and wildlife.

These policies caused the national forests to become overgrown, overfueled, and inaccessible.

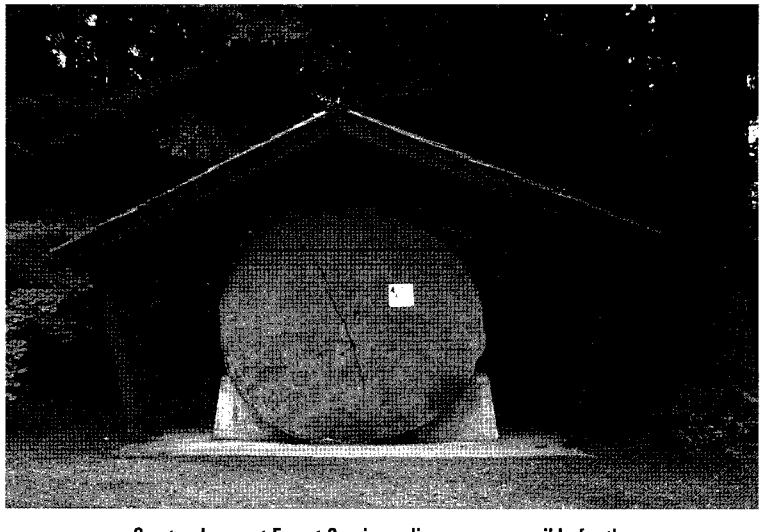
In 1910, after a thousand wildfires came together and consumed three million acres of national forests in Idaho and Montana, killing 85 people, Congress declared war on wildfires.

As a result, wildfires took a remarkable jump.

When 1994 wildfires destroyed 3 million acres of land killed 14 firefighters, many called for timber-thinning in these overgrown areas; but the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) opposed these plans as being a mere 'pretext for accelerated logging.' .... The General Accounting Office warned in 1999 of the dangerous accumulation of fuel, but environmentalist pressures continued to prevent humans from "managing" environments that greens preferred to keep pristine." In a recent Wall Street Journal *article, Robert H. Nelson surveyed the resulting damages and body counts. In 2000, 8.4 million acres went up in smoke. In 2002, 6.9 million more acres were reduced to ashes, as were 800 homes, in firestorms that also took the lives of 23 more fighters, and cost $1.7 billion. Now [referring to the 2003 devastating fires in Southern California], three-quarters of a million acres of California are gone, and with them, over 3,500 homes, $2 billion, and 22 more human lives [civilian] . And all this doesn't count the impact on [species].*

Having made a vast contribution to this explosive wildfire danger, one might think that exclusionists would be less bold in further advancing such ill-founded positions. But their politics often turn common sense on its head. In October 2003, during what would be the most devastating fire season in California history, a preservationist group known as Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) filed "the first-ever lawsuit challenging the Forest Service' s firefighting mission and practices." With membership primarily consisting of retired Forest Service employees of the exclusionist persuasion, FSEEE advocates the "let-it-burn" approach to our national forests. According to the organization's executive director, fighting wildfires is like "putting fans on the coast of Florida to blow hurricanes away, or trying to prevent earthquakes."

Claiming, among other things, that chemical fire retardants and bulldozers kill and destroy the habitat of ESA-listed fish and other forest species, FSEEE asked the federal court to stop the Forest Service and its firefighters from using aerially applied chemical retardants and bulldozers. FSEEE also asked the court to order the Forest Service to comply with the ESA requirement that it "consult" with the appropriate Service — the NOAA Fisheries as to anadromous fish species or FWS for all other fish species — prior to fighting each wildfire to



Court orders, not Forest Service policy, are responsible for the 'let it burn' mentality that killed four firefighters.

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insure that the chemical retardants, and the bulldozers' lug-tracks and blades, do not harm an ESA-listed species or its habitat in the course of fighting the fire.

Fire retardant: often firefighters' sole weapon

The Forest Service responded that to avoid aerially applied chemical retardants from reaching forest waterways, it had three years earlier adopted "Guidelines" instructing its pilots to shut off their sprayers or cease drops within 300 feet of known rivers and streams. As a result, only minuscule amounts of retardant might fall in or near forest waterways. To FSEEE's complaint that it didn't consult with the Services prior to fighting wildfires, the Forest Service pointed out to the court that, because the ESA's "consultation" process involves conducting surveys, writing reports, and meeting's, the Service could not aggressively or effectively respond to several thousand wildfires around the country each year if it had to initiate consultation for each one. Its firefighters must be able to reach the fire line and commence operations within a matter of hours. This was especially true in the expanded wilderness and roadless areas, where aerial-application of fire retardants was firefighters' primary, if not only, weapon.

The human-hands-off approach to wildfires in the national forests is the most bizarre aspect of a movement filled with contradictions. Professing to care about protection of the forests and the species, while simultaneously opposing the suppression of fires that destroy both the forests and the species — not to mention the numerous people killed each year by wildfires — is difficult to comprehend from a commonsense or scientific perspective. For a group that uses "Environmental Ethics" in its name, it is especially perplexing. Yet, in an unprecedented decision, the court granted FSEEE's injunction, barring Forest Service use of aerially applied chemical fire retardants and bulldozers in fighting wildfires in the national forests unless approved through consultation with the proper Service. As part of the consultation process, the court ordered the Forest Service to analyze the environmental impact of fire retardants that might Kill endangered fish.

Although the Forest Service initially filed a Notice of Appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, it dismissed the appeal in September, 2006 — which suggested it would comply with the court's order. However, prior to the court's given deadline for consultation, including analyzing the environmental impacts of fire retardants, the head of the Forest Service, without giving a reason, ordered the consultation not to occur. When FSEEE asked the court to hold the Forest Service chef in contempt of court for his disobedience, its executive director hinted at the probable reason: "I think they have to take a hard look at their 100-year war against wildfires and explore alternatives that will allow us to live with fire, and that is what they don't want us to do."

It is likely that the Bush administration, as the policy-making arm of the government, does not want a judge setting policy on whether and how the Forest Service should fight wildfires, and that is where the Administration sees FSEEE's contempt action going. At this writing, little is known of how forest fires in the vast wilderness and roadless areas will be fought in the future, or how protected forest species will survive the "let-it-burn" approach. CPR

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Global Warming myths and realities

by Robert C. Whitten

Current conventional wisdom dictates that the world is threatened by warming as a result of human activities. Politicians, the public, and those out to profit from any possible change in the way the world is viewed have jumped on the bandwagon. But how true is this conventional wisdom? An examination of relevant atmospheric temperature measurements and a critical analysis of the atmospheric "general circulation" models on which the alarmists depend for their gloom strongly suggest they are wrong.

It is often said that although the alarm may be false, we cannot afford to run the risk. This approach, an example of the "precautionary principle," has its own risks, namely the vast costs that are unavoidable if the "carbon footprint" is drastically reduced. California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (usually known more simply by its original number AB 32), threatens the viability of the state economy by trying to curtail sharply "greenhouse gas" emissions and thus the availability of energy. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough that modern economies run on energy. Moreover, the energy sources proposed by the environmentalists are nowhere in sight as major suppliers and the one non-fossil fuel source that is available, nuclear power, is opposed by them.

The alarmists assume in their conclusions that humans have the ability to control climate. These claims are based on the predictions of theoretical models, all of which are characterized by severe limitations, while actual observations of atmospheric temperatures, sea level changes, etc., are ignored except for local aberrations such as changes in local arctic ice cover. The models are necessarily simplified simulations of atmospheric dynamics, simplified in part because of the limitations of present-day computers but more importantly because of poor understanding of the physical processes involved. They cannot simulate cloud cover, precipitation, and the enormously chaotic behavior of the atmosphere, all of which are essential for realistic predictions.

Climate, in fact, is never stable but is subject to

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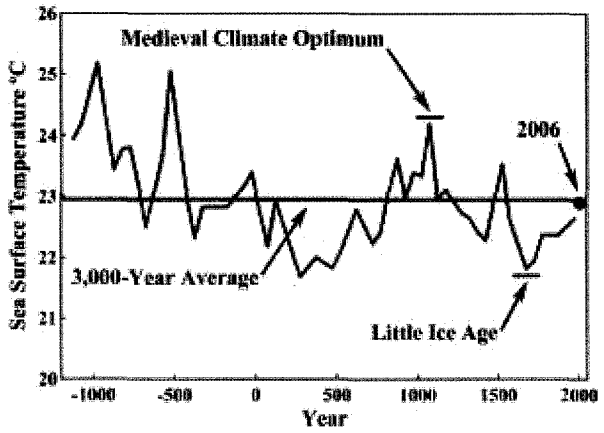

Sargasso Sea surface temperatures, determined by isotope ratios of marine organism remains in sediment at the sea bottom. Reprinted with permission.

more or less periodic cyclical variations (*e.g.,* the 1,500 year cycle); such variability is caused by factors beyond human control. Moreover, the carbon cycle itself is poorly understood. The magnitudes of the sources of CO_2 such as human activity, decay of biomass, termite activity, agricultural activity, and emissions by the oceans are extremely uncertain as are also the magnitudes of the absorbers or "sinks" of the gas. The oceans are a net sink for CO_2 when they are cooling, but are sources when heating (the gas is less soluble in cold than in warm water). Former Vice President Al Gore's movie *An Inconvenient Truth* makes a big point of the correlation between CO_2 abundance and atmospheric temperature. A correlation exists, but it is not the one implied by Gore. Fast forward his DVD to the graph of temperature and CO2 abundance versus time over the last several thousand years. With the DVD on pause, look carefully. You will find that the CO_2 abundance lags *behind* temperature by as much as several centuries. His thesis that greenhouse gases drive atmospheric temperature based on this record is demonstrably false. (Gore, incidentally, has been a voracious consumer of fossil fuels both in his Tennessee mansion and in the private jets used in his travels.)

The predicted atmospheric temperature rises due to increased greenhouse gas content have actually *decreased* over the years as models have improved; they are now about 2.5o C for a doubling of CO_2. More realistic estimates of temperature rise are less than 1o C, probably much less than 1o C, so that any observed temperature increase can be expected to be lost in the noise of normal measurement variability. Basic greenhouse theory tells us that temperatures in the tropical upper troposphere — *i.e.,* 4 to 15 km above the surface — should rise by about 2.5 times as much as the surface temperature if greenhouse gases are the cause. Observations by satellites and balloons since the 1970s show that temperature increases are less than seen at the surface, indeed much less. On the other hand, recent investigations strongly support the alternative explanation that solar variability is the responsible factor. Observations of the effects of solar irradiance show that when it increases, it preferentially heats the surface air as opposed to the air of the upper troposphere. Figure 1 shows the close correlation between solar activity and atmospheric temperature in the arctic — where the greenhouse effect should be most significant.

Any heating of the atmosphere by greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapor involves an extremely complex set of processes. In short, visible and some ultraviolet radiation from the sun penetrates Earth's atmosphere and is absorbed by the surface although part of it is reflected by clouds. The energy is then reemitted as infrared radiation that corresponds to the temperature of the surface and of the lower atmosphere, roughly 20o to 30o C. Water vapor is by far the dominant greenhouse gas except in extremely cold and dry areas such as the eastern slopes of the Canadian Rockies and central Siberia in winter. Deposition of heat energy in the atmosphere occurs mainly at tropical and subtropical latitudes and is transported toward the poles by atmospheric circulation, causing the temperature to vary with latitude. Increases in temperature due to greenhouse gases should be apparent not so much at the surface but at altitudes of 4 to 15 km, as stated previously.

We can get a good picture of the effects of higher atmospheric temperatures by looking at the record for what is called the Medieval Warm Period (MWP, about 950 to 1250 AD). We know the temperature historical record over many millennia, thanks to various "proxies" such as ratios of oxygen isotopes and tree ring properties. MWP saw higher temperatures than atmospheric models predict for even a *doubling* of atmospheric CO_2. In spite of that, however, no catastrophes occurred during that era. On the contrary, it was characterized by the development of agriculture permitting far fewer people could feed far more. Unlike earlier epochs, famine was absent. The Viking voyages to North America, the settling of Greenland,

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wine production in England, and the construction of the great European cathedrals and the first universities (such as those at Oxford, Paris, Cologne, and Prague) took place during this period. Despite claims to the contrary, we know from records obtained from the Middle East, China, and even the southern hemisphere that the warming was world-wide — *and that polar bears did not become extinct.*

A likely climate catastrophe

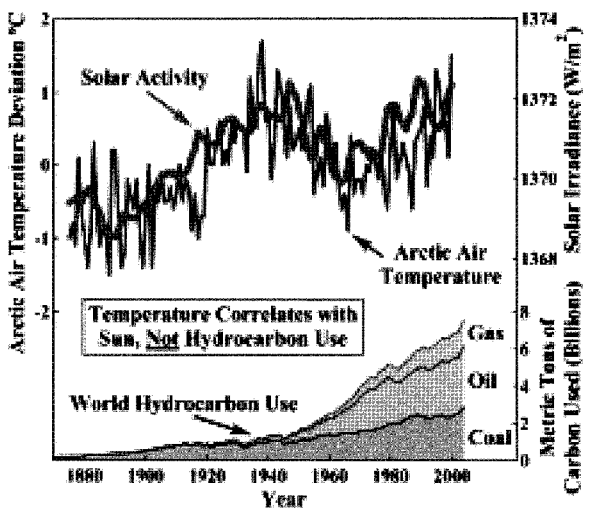
On the other hand, a climate catastrophe that is likely is global cooling, which occurred in the "Little Ice Age" and in major ice ages. The 1,500-year cycle, which includes the Little Ice age, became well established quite recently. It is attributed at least in part to decreased solar activity. The so-called "Maunder Minimum," when sunspots all but vanished from the solar surface, coincided with the coldest part of the Little Ice Age, subjecting Europe and North America and much of the rest of the world to very cold winters.

Major ice ages, on the other hand, are believed to be caused principally by changes in the Earth's orbital characteristics such as changes in the tilt of the polar axis to the plane of the Earth's orbit. A "Little Ice Age" seems also to have coincided with collapse of the Roman Empire (about 100 to 800 AD). Figure 2 illustrates the temperature record for the last 3000 years as obtained from sediments at the bottom of the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic. Temperature records obtained elsewhere show similar temporal dependence.

The Kyoto Protocol, which became effective with Russia's signing, requires signature nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 5.2 percent below a 1990 baseline. The economic costs to the United States of adhering to Kyoto are acknowledged by most economists to be horrendous with no discernible effect on atmospheric temperature even if the alarmists are to be believed. Suggested follow-ons to Kyoto such as proposed at the recent conference in Bali, Indonesia, would wreak much more havoc, again with no likely measurable effect on atmospheric temperature. The damage that would be caused by such treaties, favored by the environmental elite, has been brought into sharp focus by a recent address to the Cato Institute by the president of the Czech Republic, Vacslav Klaus, an economist by profession, and by the Heritage Foundation. Klaus stressed the economic damage with no compensating gain. In reality, CO_2 emissions would be reduced less radically than publicly proposed. Rather, taxes would be raised radically, supposedly pouring vast sums into public coffers and the associated "cap and trade" on carbon emissions would funnel enormous subsidies to energy companies, *e.g.*, PG&E, Duke Power, Exxon Mobile, General Electric, etc. Even now, many of these companies, as well as new ones — such as Al Gore's carbon trading company — are soliciting what may best be described as indulgences akin to the medieval indulgences sold by the church as a means of avoiding Hell. The immediate victims in the scam/hoax are the American middle class and ultimately the world's poor.

The great consensus

The protagonists of greenhouse gas/global warming often cite the "great consensus" among scientists that the effect is already a serious threat. This claim should be regarded with considerable skepticism. First, the great majority within the scientific community has little or no expertise in atmospheric science. And among atmospheric scientists, especially climatologists, there is no consensus. Science is an extremely authoritarian venture with the authority residing in reproducible experiment and observation. Theory must support the experimental/observational data, not — as climate alarmists would have us believe — the other way 'round. Many years ago Nobel Laureate physicist Richard Feynman remarked that it does not matter



Arctic surface air temperature compared with total solar irradiance. Reprinted with permission from Robinson et al.

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how beautiful a theory is and how many adherents it has, if its predictions do not agree with experiment/observation, it is worthless and should be discarded. Nevertheless, strenuous efforts have been and are underway to suppress dissent from the global warming party line, including refusal even to consider publication of dissenting articles in scientific journals such as the British journal *Nature*. These efforts were discussed in great detail in a 2006 *Wall Street Journal* article by Dr. Richard Lindzen, Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Atmospheric Science at MIT.

The promised effort by the state of California as embodied in AB 32 to reduce "greenhouse gases" will lead to negligible reductions as a fraction of global emissions at an economic cost that is difficult to overestimate. Indeed, one wonders what our legislators and the governor were thinking when they enacted the bill in view of the financial crisis the state now faces. The U.S. Congress has not been much better. The energy act enacted earlier this year outlaws the incandescent light bulb as a measure to "reduce" global warming. The fluorescent lamp replacements contain mercury which will unquestionably end up in land fills and thus in ground water and so our water supplies.

The authors of the act would no doubt reply that such disposal is illegal, but so is robbing banks! In the meantime, China and India, which are rapidly increasing their greenhouse gas emissions, are under no obligation to comply with either the Kyoto or Bali agreements. China has already overtaken the United States in that respect and will far surpass us in the not-too-distant future.

In conclusion, should CO_2 even be considered to be a pollutant? As we know from studies by agronomists, about 20 percent of the "green revolution" during which agricultural production rose dramatically was due to enhanced carbon dioxide. The prosperity of the Western world, which has been slowly spreading to the "Third World," could be doomed, to be replaced by something resembling the early Middle Ages, if this rush to poverty is not stopped. CPR

Correspondence

(Continued from page 12)

Chief Justice Ron George ought to be launched over his latest outrage, the anti-family decision overturning California's marriage protection act. This decision is squarely in line with George's pro-abortion racism — the one cause for which he never hesitates to abandon all pretense of judicial restraint — the chief justice never having met an abortion of a minority he did not like. Playing games with the definition of marriage fits in by destroying all sense of continuity in considerations of family.

The trouble is that a lot of Republicans — those like Ken Khachigian, for instance, who ran Ming Chin's dishonest retention election campaign a dozen years ago, who seem willing to do anything for a buck, or George Deukmejian, who will support George out of a misplaced sense of loyalty to an old friend who nonetheless would not — has not — hesitated to betray every principle the Duke himself held — that many such Republicans will fight to protect George, changing the subject from his unfitness as any sort of judge to talk instead about his anti-crime record, as though conservatives' interest in judges is no more than as political facilitators.

Ron George is a plague on the courts, poisoning the well for any sort of conservative argument against judicial activism; a paragon of political correctness, he is a greedy partisan for fat judicial budgets. His time to go is long past; alas his recall remains a long shot.

Deborah Talounis
Garden Grove

Pacific Legal

I see your Pacific Legal ad for that organization's 35th anniversary celebration and the several contributors to *CPR* from Pacific Legal Foundation and am reminded that this is one of California's few really successful, contributing conservative organizations. It will be a great day for freedom when more of our grass-roots groups can say as much.

At the other end of the spectrum, we see in Mark Steyn's column an "environmental" movement that has become so completely anti-people as to be explicitly suicidal. A philosophy teacher of mine used to say the truest communists were those, like Pol Pot, who simply went about murdering anyone they saw, since true communism was simply, finally rejection of life. Now its "every person born produces more rubbish, more pollution, more greenhouse gases, and adds to the problem of overpopulation." Mr. Steyn concludes that a mental illness has gripped the world. But life must serve a purpose and these people have drained it of every purpose, leaving only selfish gratifications to fill the gap. That only leads to weariness and suicide.

Frank Rogers
Los Angeles CPR

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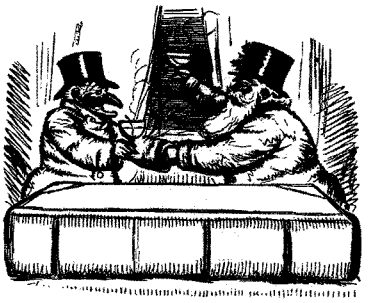

HISTORY

What *really* led to the Crusades?

BY JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Few topics have become as confused, as clouded over with historical misinformation, or as conducive of a misplaced "say nothing about it; I already know more than I want to" complacency of mind than the Crusades — the series military expeditions launched from Europe against Moslem-Turkish forces in the East commencing in 1095 and continuing through the following two centuries. (Which should, for historic completeness, also include the successful defense of Malta in 1565 against Turkish invaders; the naval defeat of the Turks in 1571 at the Battle of Lepanto; and the final elimination of the Turkish threat to Europe in 1683 before the gates of Vienna.)

A clear picture of this vast conflict requires first that it be seen in its true historical context. Beginning here and continuing in this space in our next several issues, California Political Review *will endeavor to supply that contest by publishing excerpts from a series of brilliant lectures delivered to English audiences in 1853 by John Henry Cardinal Newman "On the History of the Turks." Newman gave his talks, as he put it, "when we [the English people] are on the point of undertaking a great war in behalf of the Turks" — in the Crimea — something Newman saw as requiring explanation, given the Turks' historic role vis à vis the West.* CPR *here taps these lectures' larger value in placing the Crusades in their own, broad historical context.* — *editor*

THE COLLISION between Russia and Turkey, which at present engages public attention, is only one scene in that persevering conflict, which is carried on, from age to age, between the North and the South — the North aggressive, the South on the defensive. In the earliest histories this conflict finds a place; and hence, when the inspired Prophets denounce defeat and captivity upon the chosen people or other transgressing nations, who were inhabitants of the South, the North is pointed out as the quarter from which the judgment is to descend.

Nor is this conflict, nor is its perpetuity, difficult of explanation. The South ever has gifts of nature to tempt the invader, and the North ever has multitudes to be tempted by them. The North has been fitly called the storehouse of nations. Along the breadth of Asia, and thence to Europe, from the Chinese Sea on the East, to the Euxine on the West, nay to the Rhine, nay even to the Bay of Biscay, running be-

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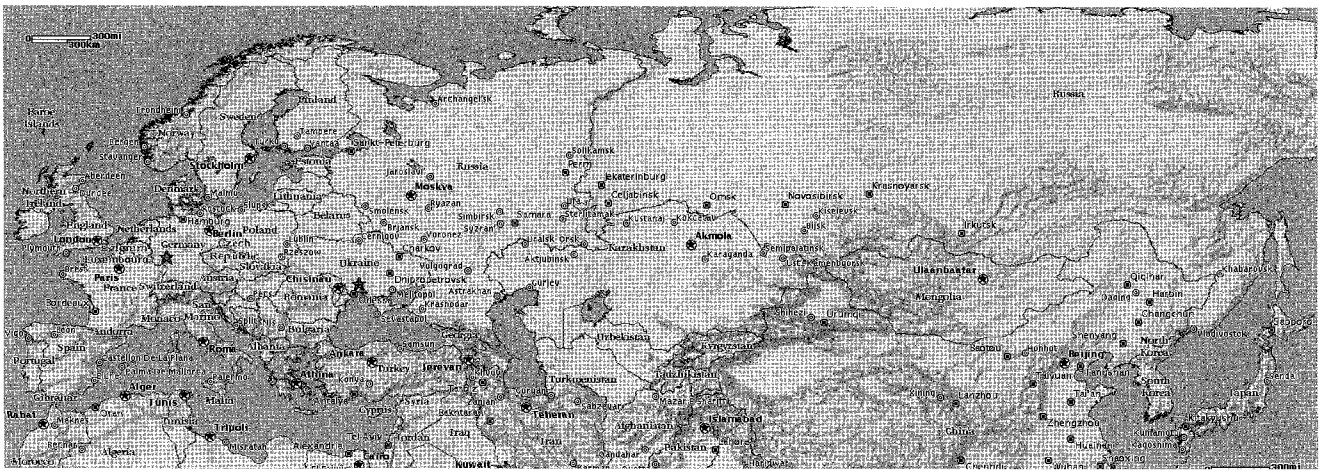

EUROPE ASIA TODAY

tween and beyond the 40th and 50th degrees of latitude, and above the fruitful South, stretches a vast plain, which has been from time immemorial what may be called the wild common and place of encampment, or again the highway, or the broad horse-path, of restless populations seeking a home. The European portion of this tract has in Christian times been reclaimed from its state of desolation, and is at present occupied by civilized communities; but even now the East remains for the most part in its primitive neglect, and is in possession of roving barbarians.

It is the Eastern portion of this vast territory which I have pointed out, that I have now, Gentlemen, principally to keep before your view. It goes by the general name of Tartary: in width from north to south it is said to vary from 400 to 1,100 miles, while in length from east to west it is not far short of 5,000. It is of very different elevations in different parts, and it is divided longitudinally by as many as three or four mountain-chains of great height. The valleys which lie between them necessarily confine the wandering savage to an eastward or westward course, and the slope of the land westward invites him to that direction rather than to the east.

Up in the East, from whence he came, in the most northerly of the lofty ranges which I have spoken of, is a great mountain, which some geographers have identified with the classical Imaus; it is called by the Saracens Caf, by the Turks Altai. Sometimes too it has the name of the Girdle of the Earth, from the huge appearance of the chain to which it belongs, sometimes of the Golden Mountain, from the gold, as well as other metals, with which its sides abound. It is said to be at an equal distance of 2,000 miles from the Caspian, the Frozen Sea, the North Pacific Ocean, and the Bay of Bengal: and, being in situation the furthest withdrawn from West and South, it is in fact the high capital or metropolis of the vast Tartar country, which it overlooks, and has sent forth, in the course of ages, innumerable populations into the illimitable and mysterious regions around it, regions protected by their inland character both from the observation and the civilizing influence of foreign nations ....

Dangerous Unity

If anything needs be added to illustrate the natural advantages of the scythian or tartar position, it is the circumstance [of their seeming natural divisiveness or inability through much of their history to unite aginst commmon foes]. Indeed, this internal discord, which is the ordinary characteristic of races so barbarous, and the frequent motive of their migrations, is the cause why in ancient times they were so little formidable to their southern neighbours; and it suggests a remark to the philosophical historian, Thucydides, which, viewed in the light of subsequent history, is almost prophetic. "As to the Scythians," he says, "not only no European nation, but not even any Asiatic, would be able to measure itself with them, nation with nation, were they but of one mind." Such was the safeguard of civilization in ancient times; in modern unhappily it has disappeared. Not unfrequently, since the Christian era, the powers of the North have been under one sovereign, sometimes even for a series of years; and have in consequence been brought into combined action against the South; nay, as time has gone on, they have been thrown into more and more

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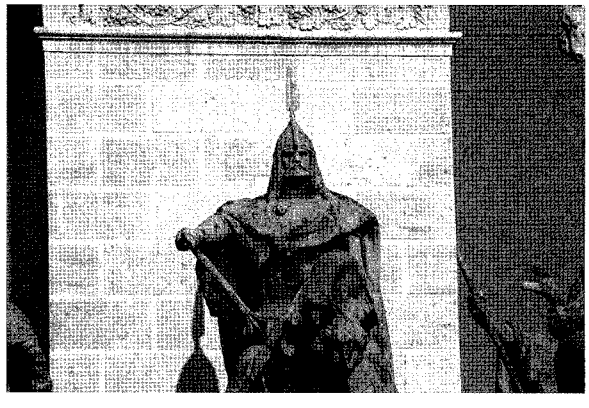
formidable combinations, with more and more disastrous consequences to its prosperity. Of these northern coalitions or Empires, there have been four which demand our especial attention both from their size and their historical importance.

The first of these is the Empire of the Huns, under the sovereignty of Attila, at the termination of the Roman Empire; and it began and ended in himself. The second is in the time of the Crusades, when the Moguls spread themselves over Europe and Asia under Genghis Khan, whose power continued to the third generation, nay, for two centuries, in the northern parts of Europe. The third outbreak was under Tamerlane, a century and more before the rise of Protestantism, when the Mahometan Tartars, starting from the basin of the Aral and the fertile region of the present Bukharia, swept over nearly the whole of Asia round about, and at length seated themselves in Delhi in Hindostan, where they remained in imperial power till they succumbed to the English in the last century. Then come the Turks, a multiform and reproductive race, varied in its fortunes, complicated in its history, falling to rise again, receding here to expand there, and harassing and oppressing the world for at least a long 800 years. The two former of these four empires were Pagan, the two next Mahometan; all have been persecutors of the Church, or, at least, instruments of evil against her children. The Turks I shall postpone. First of all, I will take a brief survey of the three empires of the Tartars proper; of Attila and his Huns; of Genghis and his Moguls; and of Tamerlane and his Mahometan Tartars.

I HAVE ALREADY waived the intricate question of race, as regards the various tribes who have roamed from time immemorial, or used to roam, in the Asiatic and European wilderness, because it was not necessary to the discussion in which I am engaged. Their geographical position assimilated them to each other in their wildness, their love of wandering, their pastoral occupations, their predatory habits, their security from attack, and the suddenness and the transitoriness of their conquests, even though they descend from our first parent by different lines. However, there is no need of any reserve or hesitation in speaking of the three first empires into which the shepherds of the North developed, the Huns, the Moguls, and the Mahometan Tartars: they were the creation of Tribes, whose identity of race is as certain as their community of country.

Terror of the Goths

Of these the first in order is the Hunnish Empire of Attila, and if I speak of it and of him with more of historical consecutiveness than of Genghis or of Tamerlane, it is because I think in him we see the pure undiluted Tartar, better than in the other two, and in his empire the best specimen of a Tartar rule. Nothing brings before us more vividly the terrible character of Attila than this, that he terrified the Goths themselves. These celebrated barbarians at the time of Attila inhabited the countries to the north of the Black Sea, between the Danube and the Don, the very district in which Darius so many centuries before found the Scythians. They were impending over the Roman Empire, and threatening it with destruction; their king was the great Hermanric, who, after many victories, was closing his days in the fulness of power and renown. That they themselves, the formidable Goths, should have to fear and flee, seemed the most improbable of prospects; yet it was their lot. Suddenly they heard, or rather they felt before they heard — so rapid is the torrent of Scythian warfare — they felt upon them and among them the resistless, crushing force of a remorseless foe. They beheld their fields and villages in flames about them, and their hearthstones deluged in the blood of their dearest and their bravest. Shocked and stunned by so unexpected a calamity, they could think of nothing better than turning their backs on the enemy, crowding to the Danube, and imploring the Romans to let them cross over, and to lodge themselves and their families in safety from the



ATTILA

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calamity which menaced them.

Indeed, the very appearance of the enemy scared them; and they shrank from him, as children before some monstrous object. It is observed of the Scythians, their ancestors, who, as I have mentioned, came down upon Asia in the Median times, that they were a frightful set of men. "The persons of the Scythians," says a living historian [Connop Thirlwall], "naturally unsightly, were rendered hideous by indolent habits, only occasionally interrupted by violent exertions; and the same cause subjected them to disgusting diseases, in which they themselves revered the finger of Heaven." Some of these ancient tribes are said to have been cannibals. Their sensuality was unbridled, so much so that even polygamy was a licence too limited for their depravity. The Huns were worthy sons of such fathers.

The Goths, the bravest and noblest of barbarians, recoiled in horror from their physical and mental deformity. Their voices were shrill, their gestures uncouth, and their shapes scarcely human. They are said by a Gothic historian to have resembled brutes set up awkwardly on their hind legs, or to the misshapen figures (something like, I suppose, the grotesque forms of medieval sculpture), which were placed upon the bridges of antiquity.

A Tartar

Their shoulders were broad, their noses flat, and their eyes black, small, and deeply buried in their head. They had little hair on their skulls, and no beard. The report was spread and believed by the Goths, that they were not mere men, but the detestable progeny of evil spirits and witches in the wilds of the East.

As the Huns were but reproductions of the ancient Scythians, so are they reproduced themselves in various Tartar races of modern times. Tavernier, the French traveller, in the seventeenth century, gives us a similar description of the Kalmuks, some of whom at present are included in the Russian Empire. "They are robust men," he says, "but the most ugly and deformed under heaven; a face so flat and broad, that from one eye to the other is a space of five or six fingers. Their eyes are very small, the nose so flat that two small nostrils is the whole of it; their knees turned out, and their feet turned in."

ATTILA HIMSELF did not degenerate in aspect from this unlovely race; for an historian tells us, whom I have already made use of, that "his features bore the stamp of his national origin; and the portrait of Attila exhibits the genuine deformity of a modern Calmuck; a large head, a swarthy complexion, small deep-seated eyes, a flat nose, a few hairs in the place of a beard, broad shoulders, and a short square body, of nervous strength, though of a disproportioned form." I should add that the Tartar eyes are not only far apart, but slant inwards, as do the eyebrows, and are partly covered by the eyelid. Now Attila, this writer continues, "had a custom of rolling his eyes, as if he wished to enjoy the terror which he had inspired;" yet, strange to say, all this was so far from being thought a deformity by his people, that it even went for something supernatural, for we presently read, "the barbarian princes confessed, that they could not presume to gaze, with a steady eye, on the divine majesty of the King of the Huns."

I consider Attila to have been a pure Hun; I do not suppose the later hordes under Genghis and Tamerlane to have been so hideous, as being the descendants of mixed marriages. Both Genghis himself and Tamerlane had foreign mothers; as to the Turks, from even an earlier date than those conquerors, they had taken foreign captives to be mothers of their families, and had lived among foreign people. Borrowing the blood of a hundred tribes as they went on, they slowly made their way, in the course of six or seven centuries, from Turkistan to Constantinople.

An empire of one

To return to Attila: this extraordinary man is the only conqueror of ancient and modern times who has united in one empire the two mighty kingdoms of Eastern Scythia and Western Germany, that is, of that immense expanse of plain, which stretches across Europe and Asia. If we divide the inhabited portions of the globe into two parts, the land of civilization and the land of barbarism, we may call him the supreme

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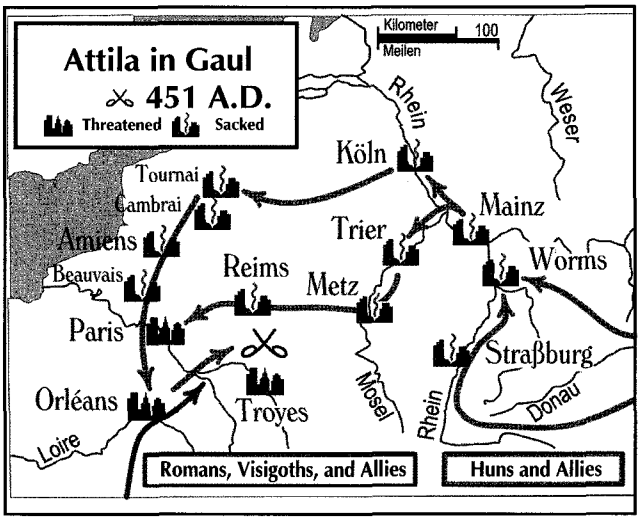
and sole king of the latter, of all those populations who did not live in cities, who did not till the soil, who were hunters and shepherds, dwelling in tents, in waggons, and on horseback. Imagination can hardly take in the extent of his empire. In the West he interfered with the Franks, and chastised the Burgundians, on the Rhine. On the East he even sent ambassadors to negotiate an equal alliance with the Chinese Empire. The north of Asia was the home of his race, and on the north of Europe he ascended as high as Denmark and Sweden. It is said he could bring into the field an army of 500,000 or 700,000 men.

You will ask perhaps how he gained this immense power; did he inherit it? the Russian Empire is the slow growth of centuries; had Attila a long line of royal ancestors, and was his empire, like that of Haroun, or Soliman, or Aurunzebe, the maturity and consummation of an eventful history? Nothing of the kind; it began, as it ended, with himself. The history of the Huns during the centuries immediately before him, will show us how he came by it. It seems that, till shortly before the Christian era, the Huns had a vast empire, from a date unknown, in the portion of Tartary to the east of Mount Altai. It was against these formidable invaders that the Chinese built their famous wall, 1,500 miles in length, which still exists as one of the wonders of the world. In spite of its protection, however, they were obliged to pay tribute to their fierce neighbours, until one of their emperors undertook a task which at first sight seems an exception to what I have already laid down as if a universal law in the history of northern warfare. This Chinese monarch accomplished the bold design of advancing an army as much as 700 miles into the depths of the Tartar wilderness, and thereby at length succeeded in breaking the power of the Huns. He succeeded — but at the price of 110,000 men. He entered Tartary with an army 140,000 strong; he returned with 30,000.

The Huns, however, though broken, had no intention at all of being reduced. The wild warriors turned their faces westward, and not knowing whither they were going, set out for Europe. This was at the end of the first century after Christ; in the course of the following centuries they pursued the track which I have already marked out for the emigrating companies. They passed the lofty Altai; they gradually travelled along the foot of the mountain chain in which it is seated; they arrived at the edge of the high tableland



which bounds Tartary on the west; then turning southward down the slopes which led to the low level of Turkistan, they found themselves close to a fertile region between the Jaxartes and the Oxus, the present Bukharia, then called Sogdiana by the Greeks, afterwards the native land of Tamerlane. Here was the first of the three thoroughfares for a descent southwards, which I have pointed out as open to the choice of adventurers. A portion of these Huns, attracted by the rich pasture land and general beauty of Sogdiana, took up their abode there; the main body wandered on. Persevering in their original course, they skirted Siberia and the north of the Caspian, crossed the Volga, then the Don, and thus in the fifth century of the Christian era, as I just now mentioned, came upon the Goths, who were in undisturbed possession of the country.

Now it would appear that, in this long march from the wall of China to the Danube, lasting as it did through some centuries, they lost hold of no part of the tracts which they traversed. They remained on each successive encampment long enough (if I may so express myself) to sow themselves there. They left behind them at least a remnant of their own population while they went forward, like a rocket thrown up in the sky, which, while it shoots forward, keeps possession of its track by its train of fire. And hence it was that Attila, when he found himself at length in Hungary, and elevated to the headship of his people, became at once the acknowledged king of the vast territories and the untold populations which that people had been leaving behind them in its advance during

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the foregoing 350 years.

Such a power indeed had none of the elements of permanence in it, but it was appalling at the moment whenever there was a vigorous and unscrupulous hand to put it into motion. Such was Attila; it was his boast, that, where his horse once trod, there grass never grew again. As he fulfilled his terrible destiny, religious men looked on with awe, and called him the "Scourge of God." He burst as a thunder-cloud upon the whole extent of country, now called Turkey in Europe, along a line of more than five hundred miles from the Black Sea to the Gulf of Venice. He defeated the Roman armies in three pitched battles, and then set about destroying the cities of the Empire. Three of the greatest, Constantinople, Adrianople, and another, escaped: but as for the rest, the barbarian fury fell on as many as seventy; they were sacked, levelled to the ground, and their inhabitants carried off to captivity. Next he turned round to the West, and rode off with his savage horsemen to the Rhine. He entered France and stormed and sacked the greater part of its cities. At Metz he involved in one promiscuous massacre priests and children; he burned the city, so that a solitary chapel of St. Stephen was its sole remains. At length he was signally defeated by the Romans and Goths united at Chalons on the Marne, in a tremendous battle, which ended in 252,000, or, as one account says, 300,000 men being left dead on the field.

IRRITATED RATHER than humbled, as some beast of prey, by this mishap, he turned to Italy. Crossing the Alps, he laid siege to Aquileia, at that time one of the richest, most populous, and strongest of the cities on the Hadriatic coast. He took it, sacked it, and so utterly destroyed it, that the succeeding generation could scarcely trace its ruins. It is, we know, no slight work, in toil and expense, even with all the appliances of modern science, to raze a single fortress; yet the energy of these wild warriors made sport of walled cities. He turned back, and passed along through Lombardy; and, as he moved, he set fire to Padua and other cities; he plundered Vincenza, Verona, and Bergamo; and sold to the citizens of Milan and Pavia their lives and buildings at the price of the surrender of their property. There were a number of minute islands in the shallows of the extremity of the Hadriatic; and thither the trembling inhabitants of the coast fled for refuge. Fish was for a time their sole food, and salt, extracted from the sea, their sole possession. Such was the origin of the city and the republic of Venice.

Pope St. Leo I addresses Atilla

In blood and fire to Rome

It does not enter into my subject to tell you how this ferocious conqueror was stayed in the course of blood and fire which was carrying him towards Rome, by the great St. Leo, the Pope of the day, who undertook an embassy to his camp. It was not the first embassy which the Romans had sent to him, and their former negotiations had been associated with circumstances which could not favourably dispose the Hun to new overtures. It is melancholy to be obliged to confess that, on that occasion, the contrast between barbarism and civilization had been to the advantage of the former. The Romans, who came to Attila to treat upon the terms of an accommodation, after various difficulties and some insults, had found themselves at length in the Hunnish capital, in Hungary, the sole city of an empire which extended for some thousand miles. In the number of these ambassadors were some who were conducting an intrigue with Attila's own people for his assassination, and who actually had with them the imperial gold which was to be the price of the crime. Attila was aware of the conspiracy, and showed his knowledge of it; but, from respect for the law of nations and of hospitality, he spared the guilty instruments or authors. Sad as it is to have to record such practices of an imperial Court professedly Christian, still, it is not unwelcome, for the honour of human nature, to discover in consequence of them those vestiges of moral rectitude which the degradation of ages had not obliterated

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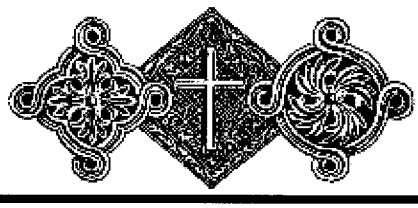
from the Tartar character. It is well known that when Homer, 1,500 years before, speaks of these barbarians, he calls them, on the one hand, "drinkers of mare's milk;" on the other, "the most just of men." Truth, honesty, justice, hospitality, according to their view of things, are the historical characteristics, it must be granted, of Scythians, Tartars, and Turks, down to this day; and Homer, perhaps, as other authors after him, was the more struck with such virtues in these wild shepherds, in contrast with the subtlety and perfidy, which, then as since, were the qualities of his own intellectually gifted countrymen.

ATTILA, THOUGH aware of the treachery and of the traitor, had received the Roman ambassadors, as a barbarian indeed, but as a king; and with that strange mixture of rudeness and magnificence of which I shall have, as I proceed, to give more detailed specimens. As he entered the royal village or capital with his guests, a numerous troop of women came out to meet him, and marched in long files before him, chanting hymns in his honour. As he passed the door of one of his favourite soldiers, the wife of the latter presented wine and meat for his refreshment. He did not dismount, but a silver table was raised for his accommodation by his domestics, and then he continued his march. His palace, which was all of wood, was surrounded by a wooden wall, and contained separate houses for each of his numerous wives. The Romans were taken round to all of them to pay their respects; and they admired the singular quality and workmanship of the wooden columns, which they found in the apartments of his queen or state wife. She received them reclining on a soft couch, with her ladies round her working at embroidery. Afterwards they had an opportunity of seeing his council; the supreme tribunal was held in the gate of the palace according to Oriental custom, perpetuated even to this day in the title of the "Ottoman Porte." They were invited to two solemn banquets, in which Attila feasted with the princes and nobles of Scythia. The royal couch and table were covered with carpets and fine linen. The swords, and even the shoes of the nobles, were studded with gold and precious stones; the tables were profusely spread with gold and silver plates, goblets, and vases. Two bards stood before the King's couch, and sung of his victories. Wine was drunk in great excess; and buffoons, Scythian and Moorish, exhibited their unseemly dances before the revellers. When the Romans were to depart, Attila discovered to them his knowledge of the treachery which had been carried on against him.

Such were some of the untoward circumstances under which the great Pontiff I have mentioned undertook a new embassy to the King of the Huns. He was not, we may well conceive, to be a spectator of their barbaric festivities, or to be a listener to their licentious interludes; he was rather an object to be gazed upon, than to gaze; and in truth there was that about him, in the noble aspect and the spare youthful form, which portraits give to Pope Leo, which was adapted to arrest and subdue even Attila. Attila had seen many great men in his day; he had seen the majesty of the Caesars, and the eagles of their legions; he had never seen before a Vicar of Christ. The place of their interview has been ascertained by antiquarians; it is near the great Austrian fortress of Peschiera, where the Mincio enters the Lago di Garda, close to the farm of Virgil. It is said he saw behind the Pontiff the two Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, as they are represented in the picture of Raphael; he was subdued by the influence of religion, and agreed to evacuate Italy.

A few words will bring us to the end of his career. Evil has its limit; the Scourge of God had accomplished His mission. Hardly had St. Leo retired, when the Barbarian king availed himself of the brief interval in his work of blood, to celebrate a new marriage. In the deep corruption of the Tartar race, polygamy is comparatively a point of virtue: Attila's wives were beyond computation. Genghis, after him, had as many as five hundred; another of the Tartar leaders, whose name I forget, had three hundred. Attila, on the evening of his new nuptials, drank to excess, and was carried to his room. There he was found in the morning, bathed and suffocated in his blood. An artery had suddenly burst; and, as he lay on his back, the blood had flowed back upon his throat and lungs, and so he had gone to his place. CPR



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A Horror Flick to make you afraid ... *very* afraid

BY ELDON QUICK

It is not my intention, in my occasional observations of the movie or video-entertainment industry, to limit myself (or even pay much attention to) political documentary films. In fact, I was quite hoping that my next film review would be *Iron Man,* an example of the Comic Book hero become movie idol. But I have just seen a film so moving — so affecting — that I must share my reaction to it.

You will not be able to rush out and see this film anytime soon, perhaps never, unless you attend a private screening or buy the DVD from the writer/director. The film is far too politically incorrect to get a distributor to handle it. In fact, anyone who associates themselves with the film will probably be *persona non grata* in Hollywood. Actually I should say *persona non grata* in Malibu and Beverly Hills, since nobody who is anybody lives in Hollywood anymore.

The film is a frightening documentary on the state of the American College and University education system. No, it's not frightening; it's horrifying. Watching it is like watching a train wreck: too awful to watch, but I could not turn away. I came away from it with a tightness in my abdomen, a mixture of anger, frustration, fear and hopelessness. I have not read David Horowitz's book, *The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America,* but based on what I've read about it, it cannot possibly be as powerful an indictment of our American colleges as this film.

Indoctrinate U

Our education, their politics

Written and Directed by
Evan Coyne Maloney
www.indoctrinate-u.com

Produced by Stuart Browning,
Thor Halvorssen, and
Blaine Greenberg

2007

The filmmaker, Evan Coyne Maloney, who traveled the United States with only a cameraman (un-named,) a microphone, and himself, has written and put together a film dealing with a totally philosophically corrupt academia. Beginning his film with the "Free Speech" movement of the '60s, he demonstrates how free speech has now been banned from the campuses of America's colleges. "Free Speech" now means the freedom to shout down anyone expressing a view not conforming to the accepted view of the campus "chosen."

He deals with, and exposes, "the chosen"'s hypocrisy and tyranny on several issues. Starting with "affirmative action," for it is the point of the film that the pursuit of diversity in gender, race, and class has ignored the need for diversity of thought. There is one, and only one, acceptable way of thinking on a college campus. And that is the way of "the chosen." As for the reality of diversity — of gender, race, and class — on any campus the students are segregated as never before.

They live separately, they eat separately, they socialize separately, they even graduate separately. he courses they take enforce that

Eldon Quick, a retired actor living in Hollywood — going to the movies so you don't have to.

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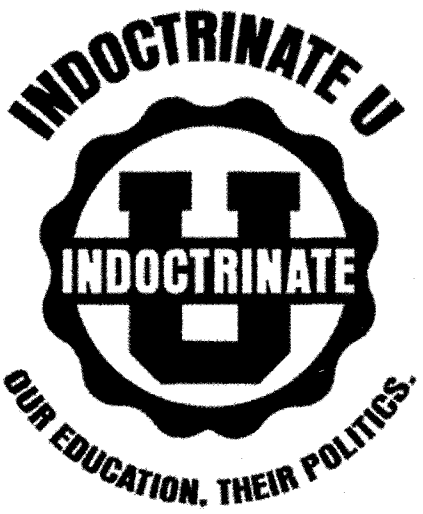
separateness: classes for black studies, women's studies, gay studies, everything except white male studies. They have only one thing in common, their political opinion and hatred of the United States of America.

His technique of presentation is to interview students that have been involved in, accidentally, or maybe sometimes knowingly, committing the grievous crime of offending "The Chosen." For instance Steve Hinkle, a student at Cal Poly, who ended up defending himself for 18 months in various venues for the crime of asking if he could post a flyer on the bulletin board of the Multi-Culture Center promoting the appearance of Mason Weaver who had recently written a book entitled It's OK to Leave the Plantation. Someone at the Multi-Culture Center took offense to the word "Plantation" and called the campus police claiming Steve was creating a disturbance and attempting to spread racially offensive literature.

In the film, Evan interviews several individuals involved in Steve's defense. The picture quickly emerges that the administration invested a concerted effort in making an example of Steve and that it was primarily interested in wringing out of him an admission of guilt, an apology, and an acceptance of "culture awareness" training. As Steve resisted, the threats of punishment escalated to expulsion from college and permanent black marks on his record. Eventually, Steve's case did reach a judge, and every contention by the college was thrown out. Cost to the taxpayers of California: $40,000.

One of the funniest scenes — no, funny is not the right word, although one cannot help but laugh since it really happened — is one also inducing horror as we see the stupidity, hypocrisy, and blatant dishonesty of an administration functionary who refuses to allow



Evan access to the College president so that he can be asked about the $40,000 spent on a futile attempt to punish Steve Hinkle. The man, while making an utter fool of himself, is somehow utterly unaware of the absurdity of his actions. After all Evan's attempts to make an appointment with the president have been ignored, Evan asks the functionary if an appointment can be made through him. Said functionary replies that appointments can only be made by phone. He doesn't have time right now to make an appointment, but then promptly finds time to call the campus police to have Evan bounced from the campus.

This is only one of many examples Evan presents of the groupthink that permeates our college campuses. Anything that can be considered offensive to the "Liberal" worldview is met with condemnation and threats of punishment. But flyers, emails, even public physical action threatening students who may be identified as holding conservative views are just expressions of free speech. The doube standard is thick enough to clogs one's sense of reality. Then there is the mob mentality of students whipping themselves into a frenzy of outrage, like a lynch mob, over the appearance of military recruiters on campus, or marching in united protest because some student offered cupcakes for sale with different prices for different ethnic types to show the absurdity of admitting students to college based on a quota system of racial backgrounds. The bake sellers are publicly denounced as racist, sexist homophobes, and threatened with arrest.

The film, entitled *Indoctrinate U,* and is available only as a download or purchased DVD from: *www.indoctrinate-u.com* web site. Evan also gives private screenings whenever and wherever a group large enough (at least 500 people) to justify an appearance can be put together.

The photography, the editing, and the sound quality are all excellent, as is the narrative of the story it tells. But one can tell this is a low budget film. Softspoken, courteous Evan does all the film's interviews and narration. A New York City-based software developer, in 2003 he began making short films one Saturday because he had nothing better to do. His films became an unexpected hit online and he turned his hobby into something substantial. For three years, he put his programming career on hold to make *Indoctrinate U.* CPR

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First Things

Command Focus

by John Kurzweil

Lots of people noticed Barack Obama's line in his "victory" speech asserting that "I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless ...." Up to now, evidently, since 1776, America has *not* cared for the sick or provided jobs.

A pattern emerges from Obama's (and his defenders') effortless assertions that his deep, seemingly ubiquitous associations with minions of the world's most intense hate America cohorts simply "don't matter." In the same way, his bald-faced dishonesty on health care and jobs will be dismissed as a "non-issue" if it is raised against him. For leftists, nothing that fails to serve their cause ever "matters," and if typical American voters think otherwise, they are merely being irrational.

But these things *do* matter, at least as instruction for the rest of us. Most specifically, they indicate where reality is located while again demonstrating the left's unerring eye for identifying it. Obama, like all leftists, provides an infallible pointer to the real by aiming his every pronouncement and action against it. For the left, nothing else matters. These folks have no interest or patience with or for anything else. God, religion, the West, freedom, the First Things (life, good, love, truth, and beauty), are everything. The left never attacks anything else, and they never actually defend anything at all. That would be indulging things that "don't matter."

We are told in our Western religion that even devils acknowledge and glorify God and His greatness through their eternally-fixated hatred of it, and surely it could be no other way. After all, there is nothing else, so with what else could devils possibly occupy themselves? It is the same with leftists, would-be devils (as Dostoevsky labeled them) equally bereft of purpose beyond hatred of all things real. They begin by refusing to acknowledge anything outside their cramped beatific vision of the perfect — a world without God or His creation, only their own fears and fantasies — and they end fixated by hatred of the damned "real" that will never bend to their will and that they identify as the enemy that eternally keeps them from achieving their alternative reality.

America has never yet cared for its sick or provided jobs because if it had, we would have to admit something good about America (a real place with real attributes), something good about what is real, and that would end the fantasy altogether.

Rush Limbaugh recently made a similar point, discussing Obama's Father's Day speech. "So Obama goes out there," Limbaugh said, "and tells black fathers, hey, stay home, bud, stay home, pal, raise your children, be a father .... [Then] look at what happened to Bill Cosby when he tried this. Bill Cosby was almost run out of the black race .... But Obama comes out and says these things and the Drive-Bys predictably go gaga as though they've never heard anybody say these things. *And they may not have ....*" *(emphasis added).*

And they may not have — indeed, because when Cosby says it, it is not helping the cause and so cannot be heard except as a thing bad to be condemned. Too many people believe Cosby means it, whereas we all know Barack is whistling up nothing but meaningless campaign sound bites. That's potentially helpful, and so audible.

All this offers lessons for our instruction. Normal (non-left) humanity sees life's richness and divides its attentions throughout the wide variety. Not so the left. They never lose Command Focus, never forget they are at war. This is a primary reason they so often outperform, often intimidate, their opposition, as a matter of practical politics. It is not that we should all be similarly fixated on the political war, but that the left serves to remind us that the war is real, and that it is always in the first place about opposing or upholding the First Things. CPR

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